Maybe God Is Waiting

The Constitution 1a
Editor Constitution: In a recent editorial, "There Is Tragedy by the Road," you vividly describe the hardships of the farmer as he plows his dust-ridden fields trying to wrench an existence from the poor soil. Oct. 6-12-48

Your description is a sad commentary upon the struggles of the country farmer whose efforts keep the city man alive. It is also a commentary upon our absolute dependence upon God who sends His rain upon the good and the bad, and allows His sun to shine upon the just and unjust. And what is sadder still is, as you say, we can do nothing about it. But can't we do something about it? Is it not because nothing has been done about it that such deplorable conditions exist? Atlanta, Ga.

No, we can't do anything about it, if we leave God and religion out of the picture. There is a Negro spiritual which is apropos: "Lord, we are down here waiting and can't do nothing till You come." Yes, we are down here waiting on God. Maybe God is waiting on us.

CHAS. W. KELLY,
Pastor Greenwood Baptist Church, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

Name Perry For Work With Southern Farmers

Consolidation News
Fri. Sept. 10, 48 1a

OKLAHOMA CITY (ANP) — Dr. E. W. Perry, prominent pastor here and vice president of the National Baptist convention, has been appointed a collaborator to work with the assistant administrator of the important marketing and production administration, serving colored farmers throughout the south.

Dr. Perry, who is pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, is vice president at large of the National Fraternal Council of Negro churches and a director of the Oklahoma School of Religion at Langston University. He was educated in Mississippi and Oklahoma, taking his college work at Bishop College, Marshall, Tex. For 29 years he served as a regional vice president of the National Baptist convention. Oct. 5-22-48

The production and marketing administration is one of the most important divisions of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and it is felt certain that additional representation will augur well for the interests of Negro farmers.

FARM TENANCY DECLINES

Recently compiled figures show farm tenancy is at the lowest figure since 1890. About 30 per cent of the nation's 5,900,000 farms are now operated by renters. The peak of tenancy was in 1930, when renters worked 42.4 per cent of the farms. Several factors contribute to this important economic and sociologic reversal of a long-term trend. The foremost reason is the income earned by farmers in the last seven years. Farm income for 1947 was estimated at $29,700,000,000, an all-time record and a 21 per cent increase over 1946. High-profit margins for staple crops and livestock have enabled owners to reduce mortgages and tenants to purchase farms they have been renting. Our farm tenancy system has long been one of the poorest in the world. Short-term leases offered no inducements to tenants to follow soil conservation practices.

The present low level of renting is not only a wholesome sign of a more stable, family-farm type of agriculture. Indications are that modern machinery and industrial use of farm crops will enable the small farm to hold its own. Farms are increasing in size; fences and walls are being eliminated or rearranged for more efficient machine operation. The productive capacity of livestock and poultry is increasing. New grasses, grains and fruits will play increasingly important roles as low cost of production becomes the yardstick of profit. This nation was built on the philosophy of freeholders supporting a free government. Decreasing farm tenancy is an indication that able and ambitious farmers can follow the traditional pattern of becoming farm owners.

Only Third Of Colored Farm Families In Ga. County Have Adequate Diets

WASHINGTON. — That tenants and sharecroppers need the kind of security on the land that will encourage more of them to grow a larger part of their own food supply is indicated by a U. S. Department of Agriculture survey which reveals that nearly two-thirds of the colored farm families in a sample Georgia county had inadequate diets in 1945—a high production war year.

The survey shows that only 35 percent of the Negro farm families studied in the Georgia county had diets that could be considered adequate even when the standard was lowered to 67 percent of the recommended allowance of the National Research Council.

More than half the diets of the families were deficient in vitamin A; about a fourth were inadequate in calcium, and close to one-fifth were short on riboflavin, say officials of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics which conducted the survey.

Have no Gardens

Lack of gardens with green and yellow vegetables, and a cow to supply milk and butter largely accounted for the dietary shortages of vitamin A and calcium, the bureau points out.

Unsatisfactory Diets

When the diets of colored farmers in the county were compared with those of whites on the basis of the amount of calcium in their meals, it was shown that white owners and renters ate diets that were 90 percent satisfactory, while Negro owners and renters ate meals that were only 82 percent adequate.

A comparison of the diets of white and colored sharecroppers and farm laborers showed an even greater disparity. The former ate meals that were 77 percent satisfactory in calcium, while the latter lived on diets that were only 65 percent satisfactory.

Just a pint of milk a day, an egg, and a few garden vegetables for each member of the families that were deficient in calcium and vitamins would have improved their lot considerably, say Department officials. Continuing, they point out that this emphasizes the need for meeting this year's goal of 20 million Freedom Gardens to help satisfy our own nutrition requirements and those of our neighbors overseas.

A key to better diets for farm people, say Department officials, is more satisfactory tenure arrangements for tenants and croppers. They point out that a lift toward ownership or longer term written leases with provisions for a garden plot and pasture for a cow would go a long way toward encouraging landless farmers to produce more of their own feed at home.

Sharecropper Sues Landlord For $100,000

Claims Blackjack Used To Snatch Cotton Crop Share

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — James Hawkins, Negro sharecropper, reportedly was beaten, robbed and threatened with death by the operator of Cox Brothers plantation and some of his friends.

As a result he has just brought suit in U. S. district court here for $100,000. The Workers Defense League has placed the case in the hands of Ross Robley, leading Little Rock attorney.

In addition Hawkins and his step-father, William Henderson, have sued for $3,000, the value of their crop, livestock and personal possessions.

When cotton-plowing time came, the operator had warned Hawkins and Henderson not to use their mules, asserting he would do the job with his tractor. His motive was to raise his share of the crop from the customary 25 per cent to 40 per cent. But a month passed and no plowing was done. Finally the two sharecroppers told the operator they would have to go ahead with the plowing.

On that afternoon reportedly the operator and some of his friends, armed with shotguns, headed for the shack. Meeting Hawkins accompanied by his wife on the road, they hauled him off the wagon and slugged him unconscious with blackjacks. They told him they would kill him if he left the plantation for medical aid.

THROWN OFF LAND

Hawkins lay bleeding in his shack. When he tried to work he lost consciousness. Two days later, overcoming his fear, he went to a doctor. When the operator learned of this, he threw Hawkins and Henderson off his plantation, confiscating their meager possessions and their share of the crop. These facts were verified by WDL field investigators.

To insure Hawkins and Henderson against reprisals, the WDL removed them from the area. Hawkins, his wfie and his two children are now in Chicago. Henderson is on a cooperative farm near Elmira, N. Y.

"This is not the only case of its kind on the WDL docket," commented Rowland Watts, national WDL secretary. "WDL field workers have unearthed evidence of other grave injustices in this and other areas where men and women are still held in peonage and slavery. Vigilant investigation of all such evidence and immediate legal action as soon as victims are removed to safety are the answer to violence and terror, peonage and slavery."

Ark. Sharecroppers Sue Planters For Crop Settlements

HELENA, Ark.— (WDL) — The planter defendants, the Cox brothers and Nabors, lost the first round in their legal battle with two sharecroppers, James Hawkins and William Henderson, on Sept. 14 when Federal Judge Harry J. Lemly declared that federal juridiction was recognized in the suit being pressed on the behalf of Henderson and Hawkins by the Workers Defense League. The Cox brothers and Nabors contended that the case did not come under federal jurisdiction.

Henderson and Hawkins charge that their possessions were confiscated and that they were ousted from the plantation after an unsuccessful attempt by the Cox brothers to chisel an increased share of the crop. They are suing for $3,000, the value of the crop. Hawkins was seriously beaten during the affair and is suing for $100,000 in personal damages.

The federal jurisdiction was recognized by Judge Lemly and the bill of complaint by Henderson and Hawkins was determined to be valid on its face. Trial is set for the second week in October with a pre-trial physical examination scheduled for Hawkins at which time he will be examined by two doctors selected by the Plaintiff, Hawkins, and the defendants, the Cox brothers, to determine the extent of injury.

Henderson and Hawkins were represented by Workers Defense League attorneys Ross Robley, of Little Rock and Rowland Watts of Baltimore, Maryland.

ALMOST LYNCHED IN 1939, REV. WHITFIELD STILL WORKING FOR BETTERMENT OF SHARECROPPER

CHICAGO, (WDL) — Although he barely escaped lynching in Sikeston, Mo. about nine years ago because of his efforts to organize the sharecroppers then, Rev. Owen N. Whitfield still lives in the south and still fights the sharecropper's battle, today.

The story of Rev. Whitefield and the famous Sharecroper's strike of 1939 is recalled in the current November issue of Harper's magazine, now on the news stands. It is written sympathetically by a British journalist, Cedric Belfrage, now editor of an American weekly news magazine, National Guardian. The story is called "Cotton-Patch Moses."

Whitefield and his wife, Zella, parents of 15 children, in 1939, risked the loss of a beautiful project home, the first decent home they had ever had, to lead hundreds of sharecroppers in a roadside strike on a Missouri highway.

This eqisode during which he and white and colored tenant farmers working together camped outdoors on the highway and lived outdoors in rain and snow dramatized to all America the sordid conditions under which these land tillers lived.

In this continuous fight for the little man, Rev. Whitefield has visited President Roosevelt in the White House while his wife talked to Mrs. Roosevelt; he has traveled in many parts of the south as a CIO union organizer and he has been damned by many of his fellowmen, white and colored, and blessed by many of both races.

Today, according to Harper, he now lives in a cooperative colony, Cropperville, in Missouri, a place he founded and helped build. His weekly activities still include working on the farm as well as reaching innumerable times at various churches.

Credit for helping make Rev. Whitefield a successful leader, however, must be given to a white man who was willing to listen to a Negro and encourage him, a propertied farmer, Thad Snow, who was a college graduate.

According to Belfrage, Whitefield was spurred on to organize the famous sharecroppers strike by a statement from Snow who said, "You'll never get those damn peckerwoods to follow your lead."

Th planters in Missouri's Bootheel area had cheated the sharecroppers from years out of their wages due them under the AAA at that time. They took no regard for the race of the worker, feeling that the whites and colored would never get together to do anything about the situation anyway.

One man, however, did not believe this. He was balding, 46 year old Owen H. Whitefield. In his church, the First Baptist church of Sikeston, h organized an interracial group, and they all decided to move out on highway 60 and 61 when the annual "putting out" time came.

Describing the scene of the roadside strike, the article said:

"Three days later nearly 2,000 people were established in roadside camps, each with its own 'marshal' to direct activities, stretching for 100 miles along highways 60 and 61; men, women and children, black and white, singing hymns lustily to banjos and violins between piles of junk that were their worldly possessions —cornshuck mattresses, battered pots and pans, wire coops of chicken, relics of iron cook stoves; pouring coffee for each other around the camp fires and calling each other 'Sister Almeada' and 'Brother Otis.'"

Of the lynching scare, Belfrage wrote:

"There was no doubt, according to the resolution of a Charleston citizens' meeting, that 'unscrupulous and scheming agitators' were behind 'this dam ble scheme.' To the sheriff of New Madrid county it was 'a messy piecy old piece of business.' His men were scouring the countryside for the bald-headed Negro, Rev. Whitefield. Outside corner drug stores, hysterical characters were getting up lynch parties.

"The victim was not to be found. He was in St. Louis directing the demonstration by remote control

At the time of the strike, Whitefield and his wife Zella with their children were living at the project home, the first federal housing roject for sharecroppers, the LaForge, Snow was obtained this home for him without his knowledge. At strike time his wife agreed with him to

Of Whitefield her and the sharecropper a relationship of mutual respect developed."

"It isn't exactly cricket for a preacher to listen at length to a planter, but I forgot my dignity," the writer said, "Above all it has been the sharecropper-preacher's wit that impressed Snow ... Between the plant

strike although it meant the probable loss of their best home of their lives.

Writing of the failure of the people to rict in the strike, Belfrage said:

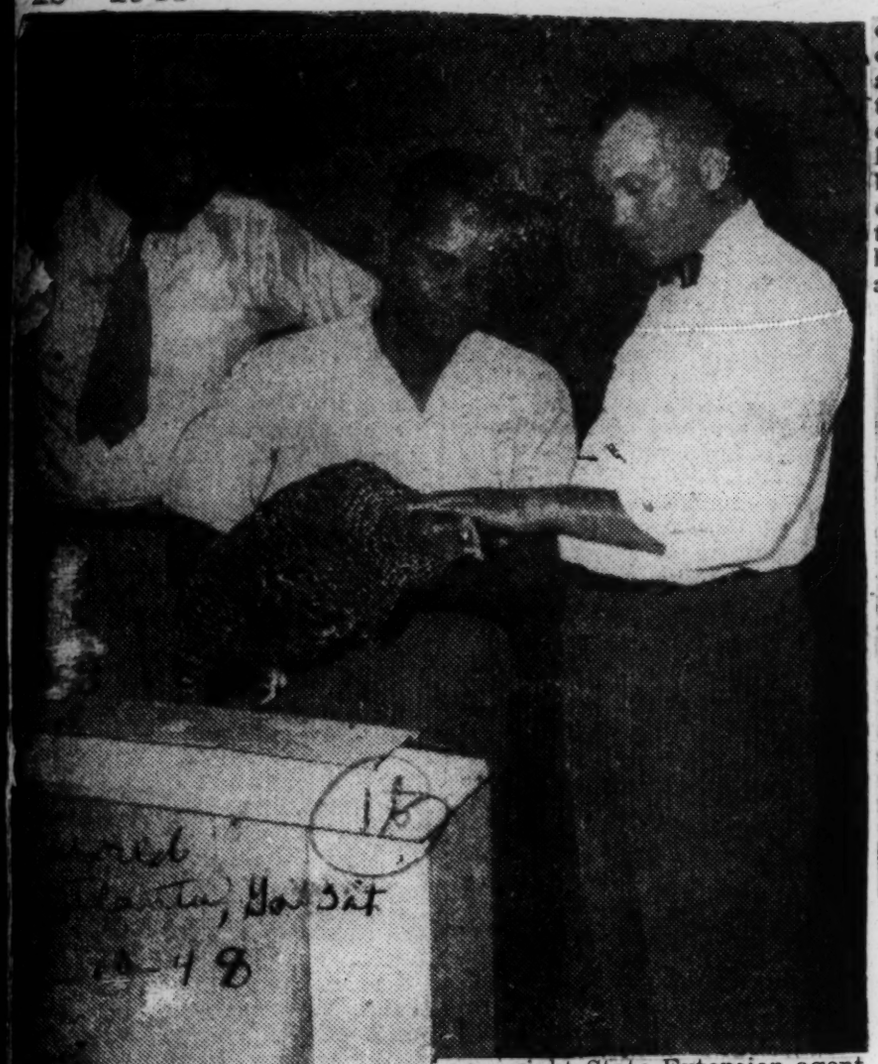
"When blood failed to run in the streets as prophesied and tempers came slowly off the boil, Snow called upon a meeting of planters to demand legislation protesting sharecroppers' rights and to live up to it . . . That evening a resolution signed by every planter present, calling for holes in the AAA laws to be plugged, was forwarded to Washington."

In the meantime Rev. and Mrs. Whitefield were summoned to the White House. Of this trip the article said:

"The first lady was so flabbergasted to learn her visitor had produced 14 children that she asked, 'What cosmetics do you use to keep so young looking?"

"Outside the White House Dr. Alexander of the FSA, who had been present in FDR's office, told Whitefield:

"You know what the President said after you left? 'That's the first man to come to this White House since I've been here, that's ever out-thought me."



CARE OF HIS POULTRY — J. Conroy Thompson, center, of Hewlett, Va., is extremely careful to maintain a healthy, productive poultry flock. Ross W. Newsome, right State Extension agent examines a pullet which is to be retained for egg production. T.M. Campbell, Extension Service field agent looks on.—(USDA Photo)

Raising Level Of Farm Living Main Goal Of Extension Service

WASHINGTON —Raising the level of rural living more nearly in line with urban standards is now the main goal of Extension work with colored farm people, says John W. Mitchell, Negro Extension Service field agent of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The first step in the drive toward better living on the farm, says Mitchell, has been the upping of the farmer's real income thru greater productio nof crops for market and the maintenance of a live-at-home program.

For over 30 years, country farm and home demonstration agents have been showing farm people how to grow larger crops and how to produce a larger part of their own food supply. "We have done a pretty good job of putting these messages across, says Field Agent Mitchell, "but we have not always made it clear that the real objective of increased production is better living.

REPAIR OLD PLANS

"Too often a farmer buys a new plow when he ought to repair his old one and use the extra money to screen his doors and windows or buy a new kitchen stove," Mitchell asserts. Also, he points out that more farmers ought to repair their homes and install modern conveniences.

However, says Mitchell, increasingly Extension farm and home agents are shifting their emphasis from production for increased income to production for better living. In line with this program of spelling out the fundamental objective of better farming, agents now conduct frequent tours of farms which not only demonstrate the benefits of following modern farming practices, but which also show the benefits of better living. In addition to the tours, housing short-courses and home-improvement clinics also are held.

Typical of the farms included in these tours is that of Mr. and Mrs. J. Richard Thompson of Hewlett, Va., about 50 miles northwest of Richmond. The Thompson home is an attractive, modern two-story dwelling, equipped with hot and cold running water and bathroom facilities.

The Thompsons bought their 300-acre farm about 40 years ago. They cut it out of the forest and sold part of the timber to meet the notes. Mrs. Thompson set out to help pay off the farm by growing a garden, raising chickens, and milking the cow. "Most of the money from our cash crops and from my husband's part-time job on the railroad was in the clear," says Mrs. Thompson.

About 20 years ago, her live-at-home program expanded into a source of sidline cash income. They got the idea of selling home grown products in town, soon developed a route in Washington, 85 miles away, and began selling vegetables, chickens, eggs, and butter. A few years ago, they added sausage and cured meats to their list. By 1935, they had saved enough to modernize their home.

RUN BY SON

The farm is now run by their son, J. C. Thompson, a former student of agriculture at Pennsylvania State college. Working closely with his county agent and his soil conservation district, the younger Thompson has succeeded in almost completely protecting the hillside farm against erosion. Except for corn and truck crops which he grows on the more level acres, Thompson grows no row crops. Small grain, hay crops, and pasture occupy most of his farm which he keeps highly productive through the use of manure crops and fertilizer.

During a recent Extension Service tour in Virginia, about 100 of the leading colored farmers of the State spent a whole afternoon visiting the Thompson's farm. They inspected the terraces in the fields, the tractor, haybaler and other farm equipment in the barn, saw their fertilizer supply, their poultry houses, and the well appointed home in which the Thompsons live.

Through such tours, says Mitchen, the Extension agents hope to whet the appetites of other farm families for better homes and a higher level of living.

Mitchell helps with the supervision of colored Extension work in the upper tier of the Southern States, while T. M. Campbell serves in a like capacity for the lower tier of the Southern States from Florida to Oklahoma.

-48

The Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.

Staff Photos by Albert Kraus

MONTGOMERY COUNTY NEGRO FARMERS go on a tour of farms near Cecil and Waugh, Alabama, 20 miles from Montgomery. Left (above) stand stalks of corn 10 feet tall which the farmers have just inspected. Both the cotton and the corn were unusually healthy. (Below) Thirteen cars line up as the farmers pile out to see another farm in Montgomery County with fast growing, healthy crops. 7-11-48

Negro Farmers Study Proven Methods To Increase Yields

The Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.
Sun. 7-11-48

About 65 Negro farmers of Montgomery County have completed a tour through the area to learn and profit from the success of some of the more progressive farmers of the county. The tour of 13 cars went to a half dozen farms near Cecil and Waugh, Ala. Cecil is about 20 miles southeast of here. The excursion is an annual affair sponsored by the Farmer's Home Administration and is for the purpose of helping the farmers who must borrow from the government to learn more progressive methods of farming. Sun.

The meeting place for the excursion was the L. N. Taylor Store in Waugh. Waugh and Cecil are small towns. 7-11-48

One of the first things that dawned on the visitor was the fact that Montgomery County, and probably the whole state, is making far more cotton from the relatively depleated soil than was grown in the days when there were no boll weevils and when the soil was far more fertile.

Money Well Spent

The reason for the increased yield is simply more fertilizer, early planting, poisoning for insect control and better seed. These things naturally cost money, but the progressive farmers learn that it pays in the long run. The Advertiser

Both cotton and corn were inspected in the tour, and the corn looked fine. In Edward King's and several other progressive Negro farmer's corn fields, occasional stalks measured 10 and 1-2 feet tall, with up to five ears of corn per stalk. The cotton was also healthy and not one boll weevil turned up during the whole excursion.

Montgomery, Ala.

H. H. Baxon, one of the best of the cotton farmers of the group, said that with the same land and the same amount of fertilizer, he used to get nine bales of cotton. When he first used some boll weevil poison (calcium arsenate), the yield jumped to 11 bales. Now, with sufficient poison applied with his new duster, he gets 17 bales of cotton. He uses five pounds of poison per acre.

Rankin File

B. Gardner: Farmer With A Harvest

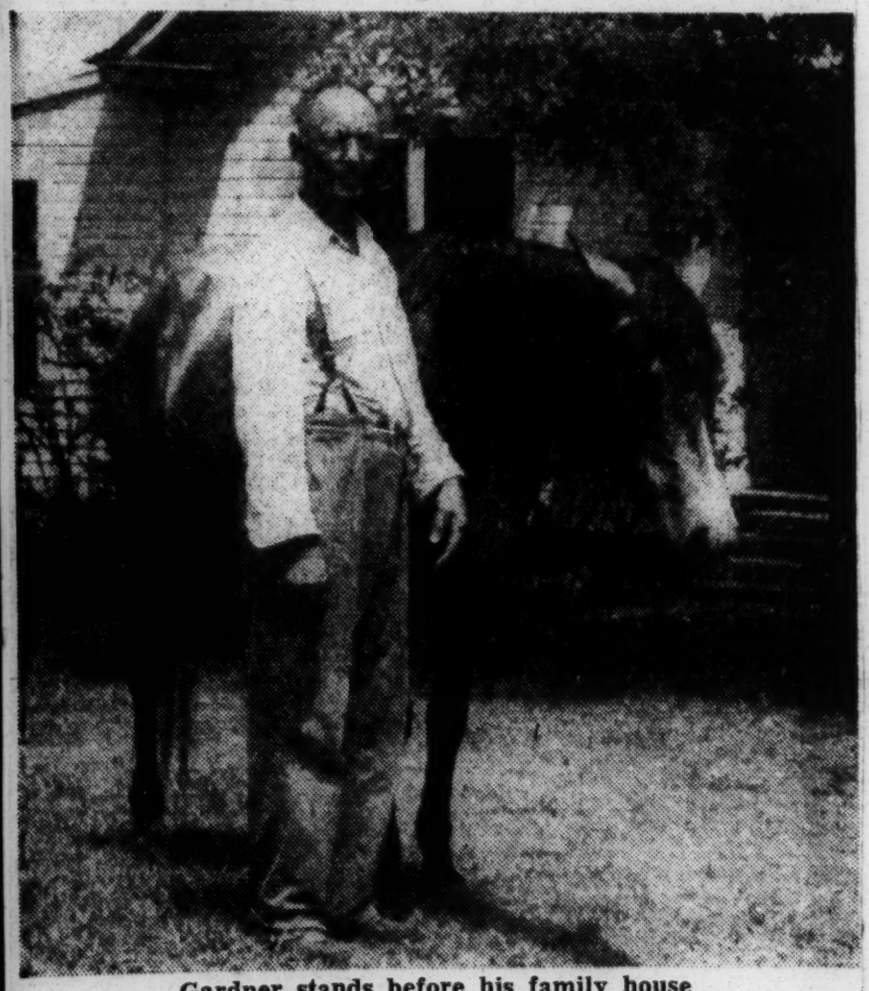
By Allen Rankin

Daily In The Alabama Journal

The Advertiser

IN FADED overalls a 64-year-old Lowndes County Negro named Billy Gardner still walks behind the plow, but he has put nine of his 15 children through college at a cost of some $20,000.

Four Gardners got their diplomas from Tuskegee Institute, one from Hampton and "the balance from State Normal in Montgomery." One, "our baby," is getting her masters degree now in New York City while teaching summers at Booker T. Washington College.



Gardner stands before his family house

Now that the long haul is nearly over, Billy, a simple dirt farmer, reckons it cost him a little over $2,000 apiece to educate each of his nine children—about $20,000 for the whole shebang.

And he's wrestled it all out of 150 acres of corn and cotton where he and the sons who stayed home to work the rest through school still battle sun, soil and weather.

"Why did you do it, Billy?" white neighbors sometimes ask . . . "and how did you do it?"

"Well," says Billy, leaning on his plow handle with the dignity of a judge, "I figured education was the biggest life's crop I could sow."

Then he pauses and adds with quite feeling, "Besides, they all wanted to go to college. I jus' wanted to give 'em what they wanted."

•

They're Proud Of Him

So down in Lowndes County where many another Negro has stretched a lynch rope or interrupted a shotgun blast, this and other feats of accomplishment have made Billy Gardner an object of respect.

If you come looking for him as I did last week, white folks point with something like pride to a well-kept farmhouse that stands in an oak clump at the top of a hill near Watt's store on the Selma Road.

"B. Gardner?" they say, and then with a kind of chamber-of-commerce possessiveness they'll tell you, "He lives right up there."

Besides $20,000 worth of college educations Billy has wrenched much else that is important from his small lands.

He owns his house and the 150 acres it sits on, and the combination radio-record player, and the new electric refrigerator—the six horses and the cattle grazing in the pastures and the bass-plentiful fish pond down the hill behind the house.

Last week he rode into Montgomery in one of the two good automobiles on his place and planked down three-fourths cash for a new $660 Butane heating system.

"I'll pay it all if you want me to," he said.

"No, there's no hurry, Billy," said the salesman. "You know you can pay when you want to."

For years Billy has harvested along with his fodder crops the respect and good faith of his neighbors.

•

Citizen Gardner

He doesn't vote but white men have come to him and asked him if he wanted to, and he has sat on both the Federal jury and the Grand Jury down in Hayneville.

But he's produest of these facts: "None of us have never had no trouble nor have never had a boy arrested.

"I have borrowed money without security and they give me all time to pay back. I have bought things and plenty, with no down payment—jus' on my word."

Down at the white road store, owner C. D. Watts volunteered: "B. Gardner? He's been a wonderful colored man in this county, is what he's been."

He studied a moment as if to see what else he could say about Billy—then came out with it:

"A citizen, that's what he is. A fine citizen. And any white man in this county will give him that reputation."

A Ghost In The Wind

As I walked into the store, Uncle (Preacher) George Gilcrease, 75, was delivering an impromptu sermon.

With voice quaking like his upraised hands, and his eyes gleaming bright as his spiked gold teeth, he was making a fine point of theology to his congregation—white men who sat on the counter eating sardines, Negroes who stood lining the walls.

"We got Uncle George touched off," said Watts. "I say the Bible doesn't say 'money is the root of all evil' but says it's LOVE of money that's the root." Uncle George disagrees.

"Praise the Lord, yes, sir!" quavered Uncle George. "An' who tol' me so, brother? Saint Paul hisself, fust when he preachethed at Constantinople and second when he preachethed at Kansas City!"

Laughter.

More of this kind of preaching. More laughter, as Uncle George further ignited himself, an old flame in a bundle of rags.

The mockery of that laughter drifted out across the fields, and later I heard it distinctly as it floated up the hill to the verandah of Billy Gardner.

There it sounded like some strange and incongruous ghost from the past.

Negro Father Has A Fine Crop: Nine Children Through College

HAYNESVILLE, Ala., Aug. 15.—(AP)—Billy Garner, 64-year-old Lowndes County negro, still walks behind the plow in faded blue overalls. But he's mighty proud to tell how he put nine of his 15 children through college at a cost of $20,000.

Four Gardners got their diploma from Tuskegee Institute, one from Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va., "the balance from State Normal in Montgomery."

One, "our baby," is getting her master's degree now in New York City while teaching summers at Booker T. Washington College.

Now that the long haul is nearly over, Gardner, a simple dirt farmer, reckons it cost him a little more than $2000 apiece to put the nine children through college.

And he wrestled it all out of 150 acres of corn and cotton where he and some of his sons still toil.

His Biggest Crop

"Why did you do it, Billy?" white neighbors sometimes ask.

"Well," he replies, leaning on his plow handle with the dignity of a ty, that's what he's been."

Watts studied a moment, trying to say it different, and added, "A citizen, that's what he is. A fine citizen. And any white man in this county will tell you so."

Gardner lives in a well-kept farm house which stands in a clump of oaks at the top of a hill near Watt's store.

Lowndes Countians point it out with something like pride in their eyes.

He's Done More

Besides the $20,000 worth of education Gardner has dug out of the earth, he has done well by himself and his home.

He owns his house and the 150 acres of land it sits on, the combination radio-phonograph and the new electric refrigerator, six horses and the cattle grazing in the pasture. Down the hill behind the house Gardner has a well-stocked fish pond.

Last week he drove one of his two automobiles into Montgomery and planked down three-fourths cash for a new $660 butane heating system. He offered to pay it all, but his credit is good.

And that's something else Gardner is mighty proud of—the respect and good faith of his neighbors.

"I've borrowed money without security," he said, "and they give me all the time I want to pay back. I've bought things, plenty things, with no down payment—jus' my word."

Gardner doesn't vote—but white men have come to him and asked him if he wanted to. And he's sat on both the Federal jury and the grand jury at Hayneville, the county seat.

Gardner says that of all his accomplishments he's proudest of the fact that "none of us have never had no trouble, nor never had a boy arrested."

'Fine Citizen' Is What Neighbor Calls Negro Farmer, Age 64

HAYNEVILLE, ALA.—(AP)—Billy Gardner, 64-year-old Lowndes County Negro still walks behind the plow in faded blue overalls. But he's mighty proud to tell how he put nine of his 15 children through college at a cost of some $20,000.

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One, "our baby," is getting her masters degree now in New York City while teaching Summers at Booker T. Washington College.

Now that the long haul is nearly over, Billy, a simple dirt farmer, reckons it cost him a little more than $2,000 a piece to put the nine children through college.

And he wrestled it all out of 150 acres of corn and cotton which he and some of his sons still toil.

"Why did you do it, Billy," white neighbors sometimes ask.

"Well," he replies, leaning on his plow handle with the dignity of a judge, "I figured education was the biggest life's crop I could sow. Besides, they all wanted to go to college. I jus' wanted to give 'em what they wanted.'

And here in this predominantly Negro-populated county — some say the ratio is five or six to one —Billy Gardner is respected by his white neighbors.

Here's the way C. D. Watts, who runs a country store near Billy's farm, expressed it:

"B. Gardner? He's been a wonderful colored man in this county, that's what he's been."

Watts studied a moment, trying to say it differently, and added, "a citizen, that's what he is. A fine citizen. And any white man in this county will tell you so."

Owns Home, Farm

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"Jus' On My Word"

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Children Of Negro Tenants Given College Opportunity

By A. G. WEEMS
Staff Correspondent

CLARKEDALE, Ark., Nov. 7.—Senora Townsend, daughter of a negro tenant on the 11,000-acre Danner Planting Co. plantation just north of here, has gone off to college.

She has gone because the Crittenden County planter on whose plantation she grew up has some definite ideas about providing an opportunity for negroes who prove themselves worthy.

The planter is tall, jovial Frank Wheeler, operator of the Danner Co.

Writer Rankled Him

His decision to put his ideas into action, no doubt, was influenced by a New York writer who came to Arkansas to "expose" mistreatment of the negro in this area. It wasn't long after the writer's visit that Senora went off to Tuskegee Institute.

Frank gets wound up when he tells about that writer.

"I got so mad," Mr. Wheeler sputtered, "I almost blew a fuse. Why, that guy apparently hadn't ever been south of New Jersey, and here he comes, already knowing more about conditions in Arkansas than I do."

"You get in the car with me, I told that bird," he said, "and we'll take a ride. Every time we pass a negro house that doesn't have a radio inside and a car outside I'll give you $25 if you'll pay me $5 for every one that does."

He wasn't taken up.

But, more about the scholarship.

"Don't get the idea we're going to put these kids through college, all expenses paid," Mr. Wheeler cautioned. "We're not, for that kind of stuff will ruin a lot of people quicker than it'll help 'em. We do plan, though, to make arrangements for books, tuition and such and see to it that our boys and girls get some kind of work. In other words, all we're asking them to do is meet us half way."

Already Promised Job

Senora Townsend, I found, went to Tuskegee because she had already been promised a job that would pay part of her expenses there. Next year, when the second winner is selected, he or she will be sent to A. M. & N. College in Pine Bluff.

"If you're going to live in a state," Frank says, 'you might as well patronize it."

The scholarship plan is simple. To become eligible the student must have lived on the plantation at least three years, and to win he must hold the highest scholastic rating of any Danner farm resident graduating at the high school for negroes in Marion.

One will be chosen each year, until four are attending college in 1951-52, and each year there after a freshman will move in when a senior graduates. There is no special fund for this purpose, Mr. Wheeler said, and whatever money is needed will be paid out of the general "kitty." It will go directly to the registrar or superintendent of the college.

This plantation in itself is unusual, and after you hang around a while talking to Mr. Wheeler; Alen Neeley, who operates the portion owned by him and his wife; S. D. Laughter, manager of the big general store, and some of the negroes who come and go you'll see why it's that way.

The land was settled — 13,000 acres of it—back in 1897 by two men from De Soto County, Mississippi, Henry Banks and Lem Danner, who eventually ran their holdings up to as much as 27,000 acres. About six years ago, however, the Banks-Danner business was dissolved and the property taken over by the six Danner heirs.

These are W. S. Danner, Mrs. Frank Wheeler, Mrs. Cy Bond, wife of the county judge; Mrs. A. B. Carter, wife of the county court clerk; Mrs. Roy Scott of Lexington, Ky., and Mrs. Allen Neeley.

Well Balanced Farm

Mr. Neeley, incidentally, recently was recognized as operator of one of the best balanced farms in the state. Highly mechanized for cotton, small grains and livestock, his work was praised by representatives of the Federal Land Bank who visited Crittenden County last Fall in connection with a program sponsored by the Arkansas Bankers' Association.

When a fellow knows he's got a good thing he usually holds on to it, and there are a lot of negroes on the Danner place who have held on a long time. For instance, Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Turner counted off the names of almost a dozen men and women who helped clear the land in '97—and who are still there today.

As we talked, a lively but aging negro approached us as he walked toward the store's door struggling with a big box of groceries. He was John Carter.

"How long you been around here, John?" Mr. Wheeler asked him.

Clutching the box to keep it from falling, John gave us a golden grin and scratched his head.

"I come to Arkansas with my daddy 60 years ago," he said. "I was 9 then and we come all the way from Aberdeen, Miss."

"You must like it here, John," I said.

"I sho do, boss," he replied. "Hope I's here 69 mo' years."

One tenant, Mr. Wheeler, said, had made 14 crops for him since coming to Clarkedale.

"When he arrived," the farm manager said, "he had one sorry mule and $65. Now he owns two tractors, a truck, eight miles, all the farm equipment he needs for efficient operation and has at least $10,000 in the bank. If he were to close out tomorrow, he'd be worth $30,000."

"Let You Worry 'Bout Me"

Mr. Wheeler said he approached the negro once with the possibility of that in mind.

"Naw, suh," he was told, "I know lon's I work for you, you's gonna look after me. So, if it's just the same to you, I'll just keep on being looked after."

Another tenant, his wife and four boys, have already picked and ginned 32 bales of cotton this year and will hit 40 before they've finished, Mr. Wheeler said.

Cotton is first, of course, but the plantation maintains approximately 300 head of grade cows and white face bulls and 40 to 50 brood sows. All feed is homegrown.

The farm keeps up 300 houses, 150 of which have electricity, and 100 more will soon be wired. Many are now being torn down and rebuilt into warm, comfortable dwellings. The four elementary schools on the tract are so spaced that any child can attend any day he really wants to, and bus transportation is provided high school pupils, who attend in Marion. The plantation also provides four churches for its negro tenants.

Four years from now, Senora will finish college and every year after her, as long as the scholarship is maintained, some young negro who has hoed, chopped and picked cotton on this land will wear a cap and gown.

They'll never come back, Frank Wheeler knows, but somehow you get the feeling he realized that what he and the others who own and run the Danner are doing now will pay greater dividends when all's said and done.

Arkansas Farm Placement Advisory Council Named

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — (Special to the World) — In order to obtain the collective council of farm leaders and representatives of farm organizations, a farm placement advisory council was named last week by Mr. Purifoy Gill, state administrator of the Arkansas Employment Security Division.

The newly appointed council includes: Mr. Harvey Adams, West Memphis, secretary and manager of the agricultural council of Arkansas; Mr. Paul Brogdon, Springdale, commission merchant dealing with the production and harvesting of seasonal crops in northwest Arkansas; Mr. J. O., Harris, Johnson, president of the Arkansas Canners Association; Mr. R. E. Short, of Brinkley, president of the Arkansas Farm Bureau, Mr. Glen Wallace, Nashville, manager of the Highland Orchards in Southwest Arkansas. Mr. J. H. Crain, Wilson, trustee an doperator of Lee Wilson and Company was appointed to serve on the National Advisory Committee.

Mr. Gill said the advisory council will assume an active role in making constructive recommendations to the agency for State planning and administration of the farm placement program in Arkansas.

The Arkansas Council will also assist in obtaining maximum recruitment and utilization of the State's agricultural labor resources. The farm placement program provides for the recruitment and movement of migratory workers. Thru advance planning, careful selection of workers at the point of origin and effective use of current information on agricultural jobs, the agency hopes to obtain maximum employment for farm workers as they move from area to area. Farm placement representatives of the agency are now consulting with farmers to determine the amount of farm labor needed to meet this year's production goal.

With the assistance of farm organizations the Employment Security Division has developed a program for augmenting local labor, when necessary through recruitment of other types of workers in the immediate area and through facilitating the movement of migratory workers, the administrator concluded.

BIG STORE BOSS—This spry little country merchant is S. D. Laughter, who went to Clarkedale, Ark., 43 years ago from Hernando, Miss., to take charge of the general store on the Banks-Danner plantation. Mr. Laughter is still there and he's still handing out the groceries. The 11,000-acre farm is now being operated by the Danner heirs.

Anderson Warns Farmers About Mechanization

Says Nation Needs High Production

TUSKEGEE — (ANP) — "We appreciate the importance of the colored farmer in this country, particularly his contribution to war and postwar food production," said Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson in addressing the 57th Annual Negro Farmers conference here Wednsday.

Choosing as his subject "There Is Music In The Air," the secretary said "There are sounds in the air that can mean great progress for American agriculture and that the colored farmer will share in that progress." The secretary told southern farmers the drudgery and the cost of producing cotton." Will mechanization mean "a new stove for your family or no stove at all?" he asked as he voiced the perplexity of the farmers.

Our country's ability to aid "world economic recovery" depends in part on the cost of production, he said and cited a number of instances where "southern farmers in the cotton belt are pushing ahead fast with the expansion of their mechanized equip ment. His answer for the small family sized farmer was to buy farm machinery through community cooperatives.

in the South is colored and one in 10 in the Nation is colored, he lauded these farmers for their contribution to war and post war food production.

Aid to Peace

"America is the great provider of food to the needy people of the world today and everyone of you is helping to supply adequate supplies of it. This a cornerstone in the building of a just and lasting peace," he declared.

Advocating great production he stated that although a great many Southerners fear the coming of the machine, he is convinced that machines will free humanity from the drudgery of inefficient, costly, hand-methods.

"We can readily foresee that in the South mechanization will make for a larger farms and for fewer farms. Some will remain small, but others will disappear as seperate operating units."

Picture of Future

Admitting that there is no simple over-all answer to adjusting the farm program to mechanization, he predicted that some small farmers would shift from cotton to other crops; others would seek part-time off-farm employment, while others might leave the farm althogether for industrial jobs.

Anderson said that he hoped the same types of incentives for better farming will be provided for colored 4-H children as are available to white 4-H'ers, and that he looked for the time when colored 4-H children will be included among the participants at the International Livestock Show.

Anderson Predicts Farm Progress

Speaks at Conference at Tuskegee Institute

"There are sounds in the air that can mean great progress for American agriculture, progress in which colored farmers will share," Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson asserted while speaking before the South-wide Farmers' Conference at Tuskegee Institute Jan. 21.

Pointing out that one in four

Raper Stresses Importance Of Co-Ops In Address Before Va. Negro Farmers

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The growing importance of cooperatives to small farmers was emphasized by Dr. Arthur Raper, social science analyst of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in an address recently before a record audience of 2,500 Virginia colored farm people in their annual farmers' conference at Virginia State College, Petersburg, Va.

Other speakers on the one-day conference program were: Dr. L. H. Foster, presdent of the college, L. B. Deitrick, State Extensiou Service director; John W. Mitchell, Extension Service field agent; Miss Janet L. Cameron, State Food and Nutrition specialist, and three farmers—Lee Winston, Otis Scott, and Lloyd Forest. Dr. John L. Lockett, director of the division of the college, and Ross W. Newsome, State agent of Extension service presided

Dr. Raper, who is autror of "Preface to Peasantry" and "Tenants of the Almighty," pointed out in his address that only through cooperatves could most small farmers afford heavy farm machinery such as tractors and combines. This means, he said, that if small farmers plan to compete with large operators. they cannot afford not to cooperate.

"If you can learn to get along with your neighbors in a co-op, perhaps you can learn to understand a farmer who lives in the adjoining county or the next State, or half-way around the world," the social scientist declared.

Slave descendant is South's highest income farmer

LUXORA COUNTY, Miss. — Horace Grey, son of slaves and native Arkansan, had the distinction of having the largest income from his farm laborers of any farmer in the South in 1947.

Grey, father of six, owns 80 acres here, on which he farms cotton, oil, soybeans, and hay. He got close to 60 bales of cotton from his crop; 500 bushels of corn; and $950 worth of soybean last year. Sixty-three acres are planted to cotton.

Grey and his family were winners of a statewide "Live at Home" contest.

Mrs. Grey canned 600 quarts of fruits and vegetables; and the Greys keep on hand 11 hogs for meat, also chickens, turkeys, and their cows provided milk and butter.

And They're Almost Ready to Take Off Their Hats

Sharecropper-to-Landowner Feat Pops Eyes of Texans

By TED BRYSON
(Special to The Pittsburgh Courier)

PARIS, Tex.—Texans as a rule never take off their hats to any man. But they came close to doing it recently when a newspaper printed a factual feature about Clifford Taylor, 45, and his outstanding success as a farmer.

Gifford Taylor's success is in his rise from sharecropper to landowner—a signal achievement anywhere in the South. Add to this, however, the fact that he bridged this chasm within the space of seven short years and the accomplishment becomes almost a miracle in the eyes of Texas and the whole Southland.

The farm Mr. Taylor now owns is not an ordinary farm. It is 124

GIFFORD TAYLOR
. . . successful farmer

acres of rick black land, flat as a table top, clean as a hound's tooth and as pretty as a dream of Paradise in technicolor.

Mr. Taylor's home, like his land, is substantial and good. The modern and comfortable five-room house, built since he bought the farm in 1941, sets well back from the road running past his place. It looms white against his big red barn and his green orchard coming up to the broad lawn. The cluck, cackle and crowing of a flock of fine chickens in the back yard mingles with the friendly lowing of sleek Jersey cows in the roomy barn and the contended grunt of sows and pigs in the hog lot.

This pleasant picture of peace and plenty and prosperity was not painted with magic colors on a clean canvas. Yet, it is the work of an artist who put his whole heart and both strong hands into the job, moulding it out of soil and seed and plant. How it was done and how well it was done is a modern-day miracle.

Stir of Surprise

When Mr. Taylor walked into the office of the Farmers Home Administration in Paris, Tex., recently and told Supervisor N. A. Cleveland that he was ready to pay the balance of what he owed on the farm, he caused a stir of surprise that spread throughout a large part of the State. For Mr. Taylor had thirty-three years left in which to make the final payment on the land he purchased through the FHA in 1940 and took possession of in 1941.

A check through the records showed that the original cost of the farm was $8,882. It also showed that when he bought the land, he had to borrow money to buy two mules, two horses and enough farm equipment to make his first crop.

Fifth-Grader

Records also showed that before buying the farm he had been a sharecropper and had spent all of his thirty-eight years in the County not many miles from the farm he now owns. Furthermore, the records disclosed that Mr. Taylor's formal education had ended with the fifth grade in a rural school and that while still a boy, he had worked like a man to help provide a living for his family.

There were also records on the farm at the time he bought it that showed the land badly poisoned with Johnson grass, suffering from erosion and in need of new buildings.

First Year Hardest

Mr. Taylor's first year on his farm was his hardest. The new house was built, as well as a brooder house for chickens, a small blacksmith shop and other buildings. In addition, the land had to be plowed and terraced, crops planted and foulness fought. He did part of the construction work and all of the farming himself and found time to plant a large vegetable garden and put out a small orchard.

His family consisted of his wife and a step-daughter, both of whom helped in every way possible to make the money to meet necessary bills and the payments on the land.

That year and the next he made all amortized payments on the farm, then started making three payments a year two years. That mounting method of meeting payments before they came due put him so far ahead that he didn't look back until he saw his way clear to pay off the whole debt.

Money-Crop

His money-crop from the beginning was cotton and it still is. But he grows plenty of corn and Irish potatoes. He now has seven milk cows and yearlings and 135 chickens. He sells cream regularly and averages taking sixty-five dozen eggs to market each week. His orchard, mostly peach, includes seven pear and six apple

Farmer Constructs Home for $1,000 Plus Own Labor

TUSKEGEE, ALA. — A farmer near here who started with $250 cash, a $750 loan, and a willingness to work has swapped his shabby home for a two bedroom bungalow as trim as a city dwelling.

He built it himself in the first application of Tuskegee institute's "low cash cost home" program, an experiment made possible by plentiful native materials and the free labor of relatives and friends. Institute President F. D. Patterson, who conceived it, says the project can go a long way toward ridding the south of the poverty-born shacks prevalent in rural areas.

Patterson says the plan's main feature is the low cash investment—a boon to small income rural families. Use of native materials is the secret. Patterson says the same house in town would cost $5,000.

Creek Supplies Materials

Farmer Rush York, supervised by institute officials, built his concrete block home with sand, rock, and gravel from a creek bed. Homemade wooden forms were used to fashion the building blocks.

His wife and high school daughter helped, as did students from the college. York and his family were chosen for the experiment because they had won respect in the community and had saved $250 out of their meager farm income for a new home. York always had lived in a decaying, unpainted cabin.

Patterson, thinking of the York cabin and thousands like it in the south, had figured clean, weatherproof, four-room houses could be built for $1,000 each. He was right so far as York's house itself went. However, plumbing and toilet facilities ran the cost to $1,300, but the college paid the difference.

Job Done in 10 Months

York started work on the place a year ago—digging, pouring concrete, hauling lumber in the hours when he was not farming. After 10 months the fireproof dwelling was ready.

The concrete block home is little different from those in middle class residential districts in any Southern city. It is furnished comfortably and is equipped with electricity and running water, power-pumped from a well.

York's expenses went mostly for cement, roofing, wiring, doors and windows. The floors are concrete.

The idea seems to be catching on among York's neighbors. One land owner, E. R. Alexander, has offered free sand and gravel to anyone who wants to try it.

Okla. Farm Values Increase

WASHINGTON - (ANP) - Final figures were taken from a census report, entitled "Farms of Nonwhite operators, Number of Farms, Land in Farms, Cropland Harvested, Value of Farmlands and Buildings by Tenure: Censuses of 1945 and 1940--Final Figures: Oklahoma," was the 1940 report showing a total of 13,572 nonwhite operated farms, issued here recently by the bureau of the census, department of commerce.

It revealed that of 11,204 nonwhite operated farms in Oklahoma on January 1, 1945, 6,543 were operated by owners, 18 by managers, and 4,643 by tenants. Contrasted to this the census of 1940 found 4,644 non-whites owned and operated farms, an increase of 2,832 in tenant farmers.

This reflects a gain of 460 in the number of owned operated farms, a gain of four in managed farms and a decrease of 2,832 in tenant farmers.

Each of the 77 counties in Oklahoma, with the exception of Alfalfa, Beaver, Ellis, Grant, Harper,

Texas Woods and Woodward, had one or more nonwhite operated farms in 1945. However, Choctaw Creek, McCurtain, Mc Intosh, Muskegee, Ockmulgee, Seminole and Eagener counties accounted for 51.4 percent of the total number of nonwhite-operated-farms, 45.8 percent of owner-operated farms, and 59.3 of tenant farms.

Farmer Awarded Certificate For Improving Soil

Family Builds Home And Achieves Better Living Standards

CHESTER, S. C.—A farmer who has climbed up from sharecropping to the ownership of an 88-acre farm through the assistance of the Farmers Home Admiistration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, was awarded a certificate of merit recently by the South Carolina Bankers Association for outstanding soil conservation work on his farm.

Mr. Archie, who lives near Chester, S. C., is the first colored farmer in the Catawba soil conservation district to receive the bankers' award.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie worked their 88-acre farm one year as sharecroppers and four as renters prior to 1942. They were paying three bales of cotton rent each year to a local bank which had charge of the eroded and run-down farm. Then one day a representative of the bank suggested that the Archies buy the farm. They were told to talk it over with the county supervisor of the Farmers Home Administration.

VISITS SUPERVISOR

"Figuring we had nothing to lose, I made a visit to the county FHA office," Archie relates. "After discussing the matter with the supervisor, I made an application to buy the farm." Soon the Archies' application was approved and they were on their way to owning their own farm. Today they are well ahead of schedule in repaying the 40-year farm purchase loan.

During the summer of 1943, Mr. Archie asked the Chester county unit of the Catawba soil conservation district for assistance in making a complete soil diagnosis of this run-down farm on which he was breaking his back trying to eke out a living.

Technicians of the Soil Conservation Service made a map of Archie's farm which showed the production capability of each acre. This map was turned over to Thomas F. Carter, a Negro conservationist who understood not only the land, but also many of the problems which the Archie family faced. Carter assisted Archie in planning his farm field by field for a cotton and dairy program.

TERRACES BUILT

Terraces were built, and a four-year strip rotation was set up which called for plainting every other terrace at intervals in small grain followed by lepedeza, a hay crop. "Grain and lepedeza will rebuild land faster than any thing I know," Mr. Archie says. As proof of this statement, he says that after putting his soil conservation program into effect, his cotton yield rose from about a half bale to the acre to a bale and a half per acre.

With the increase in grain and hay which resulted from his soil conservation program, Archie began launching his dairy program. Today, he has five milk cows. Besides getting plenty of milk for their seven children, the Archies have a milk check of from $25 to $40 coming in every month from a nearby creamery to which they sell milk.

BETTER LIVING STANDARDS

The improved farm practices which the Archies are carrying out are reflected in better living. Hams and sides of bacon may be found in their smokehouse year-around, and on the pantry shelves are hundreds of quarts of canned meats, fruits and vegetables. "We butcher four or five hogs every year and we usually can a calf and about 80 quarts of fruits and vegetables," say the Archies.

In 1944, the family built a new home made of concrete blocks. It sits on a ridge overlooking most of their farmland which neighbring farmers come to look at regularly to see hw they are conserving and building up their soil.

Non-White Farmers In So. Carolina Jump 13 Per Cent

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — The total number of nonwhite-operated farms in South Carolina jumped from 61,307 to 69,136, or almost 13 percent, between April 1, 1940, and Jan. 1, 1945, according to final figures from the 1945 census of agriculture released here recently by the bureau of census of the U. S. Department of commerce.

This gain of 7,829 reflects an increase from 17,084 to 17,963 in the number of owner-operated farms, a decreased from 29 to 18 in the number of managed farms, and an increase from 44,194 to 51,155 among tenant farmers.

Nonwhite farm operators are found in 46 counties of South Carolina, with Pickens county showing only 283 to Orangeburg county's 4,373. A little more than half of the farms are in the 15 counties of Aiken, Anderson, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillion, Florence, Horry, Laurens, Lee Marlboro, Orangeburg, Sumter, Williamsburg and York. Berkeley county ranked first in the number of nonwhite owner-operated farms, with 1,316; followed by Williamsburg, 1,137, and Charleston, 1,131. These farms, numbering 3,564, represent one-fifth of the total number of nonwhite owner-operated farms throughout the state.

More Landowners

Figures presented by Dr. GEORGE MITCHELL, director of the Southern Regional Council, go to show a marked increase in the number of landowners among the South's farmers. Put the other way round, this means a decrease in the number of sharecroppers and renters. During the 15-year period in question, there was a drop of 24.6 per cent in the number of negro farmers and of 5.4 per cent in the number of white farmers. In any case, however, the progress made is gratifying.

There are numerous reasons why the increase of landowners means progress in the right direction. The man who owns land has a direct stake in the county, state and nation in which he lives. He is by no means so apt to go off after false prophets or associate himself with harebrained schemes in politics and economics. The possession of property is a stabilizing influence in every respect on the average.

It is also the general rule that a man who owns land will take better care of it and handle it more effectively than otherwise. He knows that all his effort is directed toward his own improvement and that of his family. It is a condition that inspires a man to better things if anything does. Land ownership means better citizenship all the way along the line.

Incidentally, THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL is happy to be able to say that it began its sponsorship of the Plant To Prosper Competition back in 1934, or near the beginning of the 15-year period in which land ownership in the South has showed such gains. The Live-At-Home Competition for negro farm families was not far behind. Both movements have land ownership as one of their objectives and many tenants are moved to it under the influence of the competitions.

Nor has THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL worked alone in this area. As a matter of fact, the Memphis Chamber of Commerce has been a major factor from the very beginning. The agricultural extension services, the Federal agencies, numerous newspapers, and any number of civic groups have been part and parcel of the enterprise. Comparable interest and activity have been displayed in many parts of the South in a variety of ways.

The gratifying trend of which Dr. MITCHELL spoke has been the result of an awakening all up and down the lines in the South. The fact is the best guarantee that the tendency will persist.

$70,000 Earned From Farm Projects By Delegates To 4-H Club Encampment

Daily World Atlanta, Ga. Fri.

WASINGTON—The rural colored boys and girls from 16 states who are delegates to the first Southwide 4—H Club Camp have earned more than $70,000 from farm and home projects, according to State Extension Service reports received by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. 7-30-48

The delegates will spend one week, August 24-31, in encampment at Southern University, Baton Rouge, La. The camp is being sponsored cooperatively by State and Federal Extension Service.

While most of the delegates to the camp have made earnings off their farm and home projects-some of ther ranging up to $7,000-cass earnings are not the major objective or principal achievement of 4—H'ers, say Director of Extension Service M. L. Wilson. He points out that many of the accomplishments of the youths such as the development of leadership qualities and the increased application of their training in health and hygiene and in better farming and homemaking practices cannot always be measured in dollars.

For example, many of the delegates who report no earnings from their projects describe how their participation in the 4—H program has helped to improve their homes and communities. Some of the youths report that they have repaired their furniture, redecorated rooms in their homes, beautified their yards, made over old clothes for themselves and their younger brothers and sisters, and joined in community cleanup programs, hospital drives, and Savings Bond campaigns. Daily World.

However, among the 4—H delegates who have been most successful in obtaining learning and earnings from their projects over the years are: Clayton Marcus, 20, of Camilla, Ga., who has earned $7,000 from his projects; Milton. L. Spright, 20, of Middleton, Tenn., who has earned $5,140; James D. Campbell, 18, of Moro, Ark., $3,983,55; Andrew Alexander, Jr., 20, of Monticelli, Fla., $3,792; Jerry Thomas, 19, of Gallion, Ala., $3,500; Henry Lee Swimpson, 19, of Robinsonville, N. C., $3,341; Alonzo L. Ponder, 18, of Wewoka, Okla., $3,220. 7-30-48

Among the 4—H girls, Miss Nola Maxine Gillespie, 18, of Spring City, Tenn., has earned the largest amount, 1,073.15; Miss Doreatha M. Edwards, 17, of Meridian, Okla., is second with $904.10; and Miss Annie Belle Walker, 19, of Prescott, Ark., is third with $638.49. The total reported earned by all of the 86 delegates to the encampment is $71,534.75

Atlanta, Ga.

Negro Boy Wins $400 Scholarship

Graduation

Constitution State News Service

ATHENS — Bennie Andrews, Morgan County Negro 4-H Club boy, will receive a $400 college scholarship provided by the Southern States Iron Roofing Company, Savannah, P. H. Stone, State Extension Service agent for Negro work, said. Sun 10-17-48

A four-year club member, Bennie was adjudged winner of the scholarship on the general excellence of his 4-H record.

He is a member of the Burney Street 4-H Club in Madison and graduated with fourth-place honors from the Burney Street High School last May. Atlanta, Ga.

Every year of his club work he has carried dairy, poultry and gardening projects and last year's records showed a nice profit from these projects.

NEGRO 4-H YOUTHS MEET AT COLLEGE

Times Picayune

Fifteen States Represented at Regional Camp

Thur 7-26-48

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

Baton Rouge, La., Aug. 25.—M. L. Wilson, director of extension service of the US department of agriculture, was the principal speaker at the first regional Negro 4-H Club camp which opened here Tuesday at Southern university auditorium. New Orleans, La.

Director Wilson, who has just returned from a trip to Greece, described the keen interest which the people of that country are manifesting in the rural educational program of America.

Praising the work of the 4-H delegates from 15 Southern states who are in attendance at the encampment, Wilson pointed out that they had earned over $70,000 from various farm projects. He further said that there are 300,000 Negro 4-H club members throughout the South, helping to improve the living standards in rural areas.

Director Wilson reviewed the recent achievements of Negro 4-H'ers, he said that 103,000 grew home gardens last year, raised 1,700,000 chickens, and 7400 dairy calves.

As for the work of 4-H club girls in home improvements, the speaker said that they had canned three million quarts of fruits and vegetables during the year. They also made 266,000 items of clothing; 38,000 of them carried out home improvement projects.

T. M. Campbell of Tuskegee, director of the eight-day camp, in speaking of the value of 4-H work, said that "it is a vital part of agricultural extension service in that it takes hold and shapes the lives of prospective farm and homemakers during the formative period. Thurs 8-26-48

"It is also our main reservoir from which capable extension agents are recruited. There are now 817 Negro agents," he said.

Other speakers on the evening program were Director H. C. Sanders of the Louisiana state extension service, Director L. I. Jones of the Mississippi state extension service, John W. Mitchell of Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va., and District Home Agent Alice C. Oliver of the Mississippi extension service.

Dr. F. G. Clark, president of Southern university, will be the principal speaker on the Wednesday program. The encampment will continue through August 31.

$70,000 Earned From Farm Projects By 86 Delegates To 4-H Club Encampment

New York Age

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For example, many of the delegates who report no earning from their projects describe how their participation in the 4-H program has helped to improve their homes and communities. Some of the youths report that they have repaired their furniture, redecorated rooms in their homes, beautified their yards, made over old clothes for themselves and their younger brothers and sisters, and joined in community cleanup programs, hospital drives, and Savings Bond campaigns.

However, among the 4-H delegates who have been most successful in obtaining learning and earnings from their projects over the years are: Clayton Marcus, 20, of Camilla, Ga., who has earned $7,000 from his projects; Milton J. L. Spright, 20,of Middleton, Tenn., who has earned $5,140; James D. Campbell, 18, of Moro, Ark., $3,983.55; Andrew Alexander, Jr., 20, of Monticelli, Fla., $3,792 Jerry Thomas, 19, of Gallion Ala., $3,500; Henry Lee Swimpson, 19, of Robinsonville, N. C., $3,341; Alonzo L. Ponder, 18, of Wewoka, Okla., $3,220. 7-31-48

Among the 4-H girls, Miss Nola Maxine Gillespie, 18, of Spring City, Tenn., has earned the largest amount, $1,073.15; Miss Doreatha M. Edwards, 17, of Meridian, Okla., is second with $904.10; and Miss Annie Belle Walker, 19, of Prescott, Ark., is third with $638.49. The total reported earned by all of the 86 delegates to the encampment is $71,534.75.

The youths made their earnings off livestock, poultry, peanuts, cotton, sorghum, truck gardens, clothing projects, and from State and district prizes. For example, Marcus of Georgia made his $7,000 over a nine year period from beef cattle hogs, and corn. These brought him earnings and prizes ranging from $250 in 1939 to $1,280 in 1946. During the war, Marcus organized his local 4-H club into farm labor groups to help hard pressed farmers harvest peanuts to help meet the critical vegetable oil shortage.

NEGRO 4-H CLUBS' WINNERS NAMED

Times Picayune

Thur 11-25-48

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

Jackson, Miss., Nov. 24. — Awards in the annual "roundup" of state and district winners in Negro 4-H Club activities were made here today. New Orleans, La.

The awards are annually presented by the retail committee of the Jackson Chamber of Commerce and the Jackson Negro Chamber of Commerce. Winners are selected by the state extension service.

State winners in junior leadership were Eddie Young, Quitman county and Evelyn Clark, Lee county. In the adult division awards went to George W. Moss, Coahoma county and Martha Keys, Bolivar county.

State winners in various club projects included:

E. J. Wilson, Coahoma county corn; Jessie B. Holt, Washington county, cotton; Oscar R. Curry, Scott county, beef cattle; McKinley Palmer, Sunflower county, poultry; Aaron Bell, Oktibbeha county, live stock; Annie C. Braugher, food preservation; Erskine Owens, Covington county, poultry; Levator Coleman, Monroe county, home improvement; Anna L. Moore, Hinds county, clothing; Bennett Buckley, Panola county, foods; Hattie Clark, Yazoo county, health, and Elene Faulkner, Marshall county, garden.

Big Sum Allotted For "AG" Extension Work in the South

Nashville Tenn

An allotment of $2,672,000 has been made by the Southern States and the Federal government for agricultural extension wok with colored farmers during the current fiscal year, Extension Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced this week.

The sum is an increase of $334,000, or 14 per cent over the amount earmarked for the Negro extension program last year. The total allotment from all sources for extension work with both white and colored farm people of the South is $27,685,000.

The allotment for Negro work covers salaries, travel, and office facilities for 785 colored farm and home demonstration agents and supervisors, and about 200 full-time and part-time clerical workers It is understood that the increase in funds will go toward raising salaries to help meet the higher costs of living and for the employment of additional agents and office help.

The larger allotment this year is made possible partly through an appropriation for all States and Territories of $11,270,000 under the Bankhead-Flannagan Act. This sum is matched by State contributions.

A breakdown of the funds for Negro work shows that $1,392,000 will go for farm demonstration activities; $1,192,000, for home demonstration activities, $68,000 for special 4-H Club Administrative work, and $19,500, for the employment of specialists.

USES to Assist Negro Farmers

Pittsburgh, Pa.

WASHINGTON — (ANP)—The United States Employment Service, in formulating the policies, regulations, approvals and procedures governing the operation of the program for agriculture and related industries, has specifically requested that Negro farmers be given proper consideration in the farm placement program.

The new handbook for farm placement service, which became effective the first of the year, clearly states that it is the policy of USES and affiliated State employment services, "to serve all agriculture employers and all agriculture workers without discrimination or preference, except as may be required by law."

300 MidSouth Negro Farmers To Reap Rewards Tomorrow

The Commercial Appeal

Memphis Tenn

WALTER DURHAM

To reap the rewards they have earned by a year of intensive efforts on their farms, some 300 MidSouth negro farmers, with their families and agricultural leaders, will come to Memphis tomorrow as guests of The Commercial Appeal.

The event will be the 11th annual Live-At-Home Rally at Booker T. Washington High School, Lauderdale and Mississippi.

The rally is being held with the co-operation of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce, the Memphis Negro Chamber of Commerce, the Agricultural Extension Services and the Farmers Home Administration of Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Missouri.

Prizes Total $1250

Highlight of the program will be the presentation of cash prizes to state and sweepstakes winners in the four-point farm competition. Prizes total $1250, and they will be awarded to those who have done the best jobs of living at home, soil conservation, crop diversification, and home improvement.

These prizes will go to first, second, third and fourth place state winners, and to sweepstakes winners in the Landowner, Tenant, Farm Operator and Home Improvement Divisions.

The Commercial Appeal also will award special gifts to the sweepstakes winners.

A feature of the day's festivities will be a turkey dinner, with all the trimmings, prepared by home economics pupils of Booker T. High. The Memphis Board of Education is supervising this part of the entertainment.

Principal speaker will be Prof. G. W. Brooks, principal of Burt High School, Clarksville, Tenn., who is widely known in the MidSouth as an educator and farm leader. He formerly taught agriculture at Covington and Decaturville, Tenn. At present he has a staff of 32 teachers and an enrolment of more than 1000 pupils.

Others On Program

Others on the program, in charge of Ernest Brazzle, Shelby County negro extension agent, include St. John Waddell, assistant managing editor of The Commercial Appeal; Walter Durham, The Commercial Appeal's Plant To Prosper director; Wallace Witmer, member of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee; Rev. DeWitt Alcorn, executive secretary of the Memphis Negro Chamber of Commerce, and Prof. C. L. Wells of Millington High School, who will preside.

Music will be by the Booker T. Washington Band, and choral groups from Shelby County Training School, Frayser High School and Melrose High School.

U. S. Agriculture Dept. wants more sanitary privies for Negro farmer

The Tribune

WASHINGTON — The U. S. Dept. of Agriculture's year-round program of promoting better health and nutrition in rural areas will be further emphasized during National Health Week April 4—11) with a special drive in many communities for balanced diets, home improvements, and sanitation, according to T. M. Campbell and John W. Mitchell, Extension Service field agents.

Holding nutrition clinics, painting and screening homes, improving the water supply, making better provisions for sewage disposal, and building sanitary privies will highlight the observance, the field agents said. In fly-pestered Mississippi, the drive to encourage screening of every home is being pushed again with special emphasis for 88,800 colored farm families whom Extension agents last assisted in screening their homes, 38,000 were Mississippians.

North Carolina will continue its campaign for the construction of sanitary privies with concrete floors. During recent years, county agents in that state have helped 1,000 colored farm families a year construct sanitary toilets.

Pointing to home improvement, health, and nutrition programs which Extension workers have been promoting increasingly since the war, both Campbell and Mitchell indicate that the outlook for improved health among Negro farm people is considerably brighter, the Extension agents said.

Home improvements made by colored farmers with the aid of Extension agents included: 8,799 homes constructed; 21,328 remodeled or repaired; 1,800 water systems and 937 sewage systems installed; and 9,010 sanitary privies constructed.

Campbell and Mitchell reported that 155,631 colored farm families were assisted in improving their diets by county home agents; 129,365 were aided in planning and preparing balanced meals; 210,894 in growing fruits and vegetables, and in producing milk, butter, poultry, eggs, and meats.

Also, 101,745 rural families received assistance in preserving foods by canning, freezing, drying and storing. Other aspects of the health program included assisting 100,890 families with positive preventive measures against typhoid, diphtheria, and other diseases, helping 72,000 families remove fire and accident hazards, training 31,000 in first-aid or home nursing, aiding 2,400 schools in establishing and maintaining hot lunches, and establishing 646 nutrition or health clinics.

1500 Mid-South Negro Farmers Indicate Desire To Hear U. S. Secretary Brehnan Speak Here

Memphis World

The biggest news closing the New Year and the biggest event for the first five days of 1949 were announced here last week when it was learned through John Gammon Jr., of Marion, Ark., that 1,500 Negro farmers of the Mid-South have been invited to be present to hear the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, Charles F. Brennan, speak in Ellis Auditorium here in Memphis on January 5th.

The Negro farmers of this area, along with thousands of white farmers, have been invited to be present at the annual convention of the National Council of Farm Cooperatives which for the first time in the history of the organization is holding its annual convention in the South.

The invitation to the Negro farmers of this area was obtained largely through the efforts and importunities of Mr. Gammon, who as a member of the Mid-South Cotton Growers Association, made representations in behalf of the Negro farmers.

Mr. Gammon is president of the Negro Farm Association of Arkansas. He was recently selected to head the Negro Division of the Arkansas Farm Bureau. He is general manager of the Grant Cooperation of Marion, Ark., one of the first and leading Negro farm cooperatives in the South and the nation.

There are five Negro farmers' co-

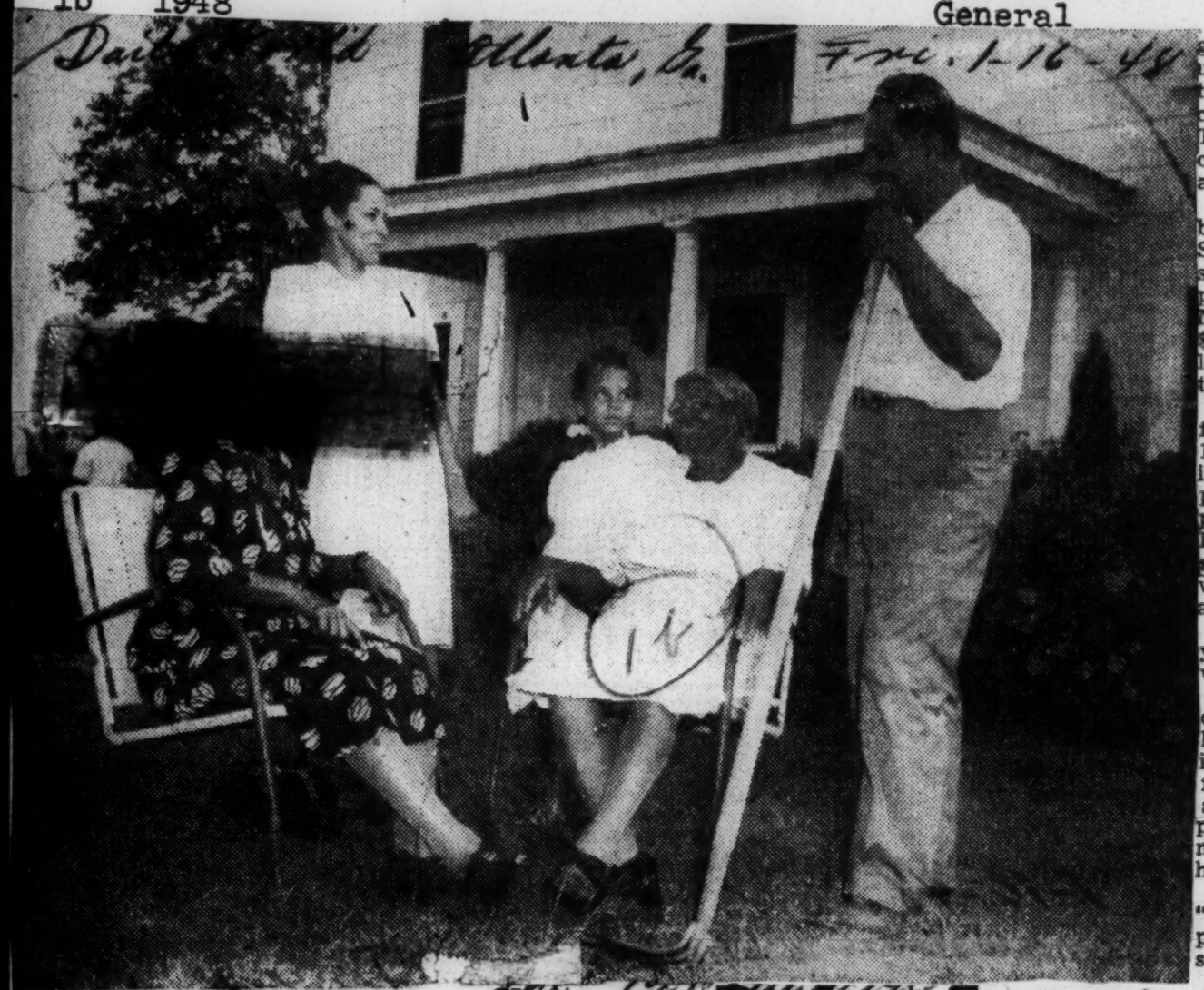
operatives to be present to hear Secretary Brennan speak here on January 5th.

Colored farmers from Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi are expected to be present.

The program on January 5th., under the caption, "What's Ahead for Wednesday, includes invocation by Agriculture In 1949".

Dr. R. G. Lee, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Singing led by Mr. Wilson Mount, station WMC, of Memphis; an address of welcome by Gov. Elect Gordon Browning of Tennessee; an address, "Our Opportunity Today"; by Miss Sallie Butler, president of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women; and address, "The Role of Farmer Cooperatives", by Fred V. Hienkel, vice-president of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, and an Address by Secretary of Agriculture Brennan under the caption, "What's Ahead for Agriculture In 1949".

The Negro Mid-South farmers attending the meeting will be enjoying their first opportunity to participate in a national meeting of the Farmers' Cooperative Council .... thanks to Mr. Gammon, who, during recent years, has rapidly established himself as one of the outstanding Negro farm leaders of this section of the country.



A BETTER FARM LIVING IS THEIR AIM—By following modern facilities and by growing most of their food at home, the Thompsons of Hewlett, Va., are achieving a higher living standard on their [illegible] dressed poultry, pork sausage, and home-cured meats to customers in Washington, D. C., 85 miles from their farm. Left to right are: Miss Blanche D. Har[illegible] district home demonstration agent; Mrs. Ora S. Thompson, wife of the operator; her daughter, Beryl; her mother-in-law, Mrs. Edna E. Thompson, and her husband, J. Conroy Thompson. Note the attractive home, flowers, and shrubbery in background. At extreme left is part of a state-wide group of farmers whom extension workers have brought to this farm to get a few pointers.—(USDA Photo)

DOING THE WORK OF 100 FIELD HANDS ON A GEORGIA COTTON FARM

METTER GROWER SATISFIED

Cotton Picker Saves $8,820 Labor Costs

By ALBERT RILEY
Constitution Staff Writer

METTER—A big red machine lumbers down the rows of fluffy cotton on the broad acres of Dorsey B. Dasher's farm, doing the work of 100 field hands.

It is a symbol of the machine age in agriculture.

It is a saver of time, money and back-breaking toil.

It is the dream come true of many a cotton planter and many a weary picker in the fields; the answer to labor shortages, and the prophecy of a return to large-scale cotton production in Georgia.

The big red machine, one of 15 now rumbling over Georgia fields, is a mechanical cotton-picker. Perfected in 1941 by the International Harvester Company, it is now in mass production at Memphis, Tenn., and in practical use from the Southeast to the Mississippi Delta, Texas and the Imperial Valley of California.

Impractical as yet for use in hilly country, or on small farms, it bids fair to revolutionize the cotton-growing industry on the large farms and plantations of the plains.

Take the case of Dorsey Dasher, who is one of the largest cotton growers in Southeast Georgia. He has a 1,600-acre farm in Candler and Emanuel Counties, with 800 acres under cultivation, 300 of them in cotton.

Last Spring, for approximately $7,500, he bought his mechanical cotton picker, which includes a tractor that can be used for other purposes at other times of the year. Already in its first season of operation, Dasher estimates he has saved enough on labor costs to pay for the machine.

"Last year," Dasher said, "it cost me $3 per hundred pounds to get my cotton picked by hand. Figuring 1,500 pounds of seed cotton to the bale (550 pounds, lint), it cost me $45 a bale to get it picked. This year it is costing me only 90 cents a bale, for operating costs and fuel, to get my cotton picked."

Dasher figures he will make 200 bales off his 300 acres this year. Simple mathematics reveal his savings. Forty-five dollars multiplied by 200 amounts to $9,000. Ninety cents multiplied by 200 is $180. Dasher is saving $8,820 in labor costs, or more than enough to pay for his machine.

He estimates that last year his field hands averaged picking only 150 pounds of cotton a day. Thus, it took four people a whole day to pick one bale. The mechanical picker, operated by only one man, harvests about a bale an hour, he said, or, operating 10 hours a day, will pick about 10 bales, as much as 40 men and women could do.

"How did you happen to buy your mechanical picker?" Dasher was asked.

"Well," said the husky, 39-year-old farmer, "labor was high and hard to get. And I had been losing a lot of sleep gathering up field hands. The labor was sorry, and I had to beg 'em to work and pay 'em well. Why, I'd rather not grow any more cotton, if I had to go back to hand labor.

"I have found out," he added, "that this 'mechanical cotton picker will do everything they said it would do."

Dasher's only worry is that the machine will eventually cause so many more people to grow so much more cotton "it might hurt the price." But others point out that it may help the United States better to compete in the export markets with cotton from other cheap labor countries.

The packer is an unwieldy looking but efficient contraption which fits over the tractor. With the tractor operating in reverse gear, the picker moves along over a single row of cotton at a time. Steel "plant lifters and guides" bend the cotton stalks into revolving picker drums which contain 600 rotating barbed spindles that are constantly being moistened. These spindles pluck the cotton lint from the bolls, leaving foliage, stalks and unopened buds intact as the machine moves over them.

Within the picker drums rubber "doffers" remove the lint from the barbed spindles, and an air conveyor system picks up the cotton and blows it into a huge hopper atop the tractor and behind the driver's seat.

At first glance it appears that the machine leaves a lot of unplucked lint behind, but closer scrutiny shows it picks about 95 percent of the cotton worth picking, a percentage about as good as picking by hand.

The quality of mechanically-picked cotton from properly prepared fields is about as good as that picked by hand, and improved ginning methods are helping to improve the quality.

For greatest harvesting efficiency, the cotton should be planted in long, properly spaced rows. And defoliation helps just before harvesting. Dasher accomplishes this by having an airplane dust his cotton with a chemical solution that does not harm the cotton but makes the leaves drop off the stalks just before picking time.

Dasher plants his cotton in hills to eliminate chopping. And, whereas last year he spent $1,400 to get his cotton weeded by hand-hoeing, he used a mechanical rotary weeder this year at a cost of only $296. Next year he plans to use a flame cultivator to keep down the weeds and grasses.

He raises livestock and grows tobacco and corn, in addition to cotton. And whereas he used to have 18 tenant families on his place, he now has only three tenants. They're all he needs.

Another Stripper In Experiment

Although International Harvester Company reportedly is the only manufacturer to have a mechanical cotton picker in production and use, other companies have them in various experimental stages, and the John Deere Plow Company has a cotton stripper on the market.

Already about 20 strippers are in use on Georgia farms. This machine strips everything from the stalk, including bolls and stems, after the cotton plant has been defoliated. Advocates of this machine claim its advantages are lower initial cost, lower upkeep costs and faster operation, (two rows at a time), and contend that trash is effectively removed from the lint by ginning.

WHITTEN UPS SUPPLIES OF FERTILIZER FOR FARMERS

[illegible] carloads of ammonium nitrate [illegible] prospects are good that [illegible] fertilizer will get much more before the year [illegible] they will be short of fertilizer has been [illegible] the greatest problems facing [illegible] for some time and many could [illegible] understand why they were being [illegible] n't understand why America's [illegible] do without while the Army [illegible] farmers already have received an add-forced to d[illegible]

Thanks to a few lines placed in the Foreign Aid appropriation Bill by Representative Whitten (D., Miss.) one of the last acts during the closing days of the regular session this year America's farmers already have received an add-

was shipping fertilizer to Europe.

Representative Whitten's amendment to the Foreign Aid Appropria Bill provided that not less than 50 per cent of the fertilizer exports should be provided by plants operated by the Army. In addition his amendment provided that 10 per cent of the Army's anhydrous ammonia production should be made available to American domestic users.

The 164 cars of additional fertilizer won't solve the shortage but they along with the additional to be made available by the Army. will help.

One-Row Tractor Is Found Practical For Small Farm

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second of three articles on an experiment just being concluded, to show that mechanization is practical for the small southern farmer. The final article will appear in tomorrow's issue on Page one, section B.

By R. F. HUDSON, JR.

"Two big advantages the tractor has for the family-size farm are growing cover crops and improving pastures," Price McLemore, of Waugh, points out in talking over his experience in mechanizing a two-mule farm.

All the experts agree that unless the small farmer "grows a big part of his fertilizer," and builds his pasture land to carry more beef and dairy cattle, there isn't much hope for him in the future.

The one-row tractor on the test farm McLemore is developing was used to produce and turn under a crop of Blue Lupine. Turning under a cover crop which some times gets shoulder high is a job a mule can't do.

You see the difference between a cotton crop that follows a cover crop when you compare the field on McLemore's land with that across the road. The former is "still making," with blooms among the top leaves — the latter stopped some time ago.

"How much more work can you get out with a tractor than you could with a mule?" I asked James Wright, the young Negro farmer who farms the 54-acre test area.

Decided Gain

"I've cultivated 17 acres in a day with the tractor," he answered, and thought a minute. "I guess the best I ever did with a mule was four acres in a day, and that takes a lot out of the man and the mule."

Asked what he did with his "left over time" now that he could turn out so much more work, Wright replied, "There's always work to be done every day on the pasture if there's nothing in the row crops."

Clearing, cultivating and seeding a pasture is another job that mules can't do well. The 14-acre improved pasture is now carrying 10 head of beef cattle, which means it is now producing an income instead of being used up by a pair of mules and a cow or two as on the typical farm.

"It might have been better to use the pasture for a small dairy herd, but it was simpler to raise a few head of beef cattle," McLemore explains. "Since a tractor speeds up the work of raising cotton, this means the small farmer should have time to put part of his labor in other income-producers."

Provides Income

Beef cattle or a small dairy herd on an improved pasture both offer good prospects for the family-size farm. A small dairy herd takes more labor, but provides a weekly income.

With the new Poultry Producers Cooperative providing an easy, year-round market for poultry products, it is expected that more and more farmers in this area will supplement their income in this way. While Alabama is still importing most of its poultry feeds, a tractor makes it easier to produce such crops as grain sorghum and small grains such as oats.

"How much will a one-row tractor and implements cost?" is a question McLemore is often asked.

"It looks like this outfit complete will be selling for about $1,260," is his answer. One-row tractors are selling in Montgomery for $800. Some of the implements haven't been put on the market yet, but there's a good prospect they will be before the next crop year.

A comparison of the cost of a tractor with mules depends on what kind of mules you select. A good pair of mules sells for about $600, to which must be added the cost of mule-drawn equipment to get a comparison.

A tractor purchase is easier to get financed because the life-span of a mule is not predictable.

Inherited Motions

"Cotton farming is a set of inherited motions," is one way the old methods of production have been described. How soon can tractor methods of production become common knowledge?

"Pepper" Wright's experience in learning about the new gadgets is an indication it shouldn't take long, and the amount of education needed is not great.

"It took me a little while to learn how to set the flames on the cultivator, and the rotary hoe takes time, too," Wright says. "But I believe I can do it without much help come another year."

"The Oaks" has become a center of attraction for the curious who want to see for themselves what's new in farming methods. "Some days it's like the circus so many folks gather round to watch me use the cub," Wright says.

Across the road there's the Montgomery County Training School for Negroes. Teachers and students often stop to watch "Pepper" and the Cub at work.

Schools Opened

Over in Mississippi, the extension service and the other farm agencies are sponsoring short "schools" to teach the use of pickers and flame cultivators. The Mississippi Delta, which is ideally adapted to machine farming, is ahead of the rest of the South in this respect.

The airplane is doing more and more of the cotton farmer's work also. Crop dusting for boll weevil has become common throughout this section of Alabama. Defoliation—which means knocking off the leaves chemically—is almost essential for machine - picked crops. It's also used by many farmers as a preliminary to hand-picking.

"One possibility is that in the future picking will be looked on as a job to be done on a custom basis just like ginning," McLemore predicts.

Outlook Bright

How fast is the South apt to change to tractors? Today, farmers harass tractor dealers in the same way that would-be car buyers hound automobile dealers. In 1945, only one farmer out of every 20 in Alabama owned a tractor—but that number has been doubled in the last three years.

Before the new implements were developed, a tractor could not do the job of cotton production. The peak labor periods for chopping and picking made a year-round supply of manpower necessary any way.

Now that there's proof a tractor can do all that has to be done, the demand will continue to go up. Among cotton farmers, the trend is for medium and large farmers to supplement mule power with tractor power as a first step. (Final story tomorrow, Page One, Section B.)

NEGRO FARMERS MEET AT ARKANSAS STATION

Tour, Demonstration Feature Event Near Marianna

Special to The Commercial Appeal

MARIANNA, Ark., Aug. 27.—Friday was a big day at the Cotton Branch Experiment Station near Marianna for the 2000 negroes who attended. The annual visiting day was held under the direction of the College of Agriculture, University of Arkansas.

Mingling in neighborly groups were the representatives of 17 Eastern Arkansas negro farm families.

The earlier part of the day was spent in touring the station and getting firsthand information about cotton and corn produced in the experimental plots.

A tractor demonstration conducted by Earl Rambo, extension agricultural engineer, gave practical suggestions in the use of tractors.

Dr. Beulah V. Gillaspie, head of the Home Economics Department, University of Arkansas, in a discussion of the importance of good nutrition, told the group "We not only need the right foods to give us good health, but we need them to keep our health good. There is a difference in eating for fitness and just eating."

A general meeting in the afternoon was featured by singing and talks. Speakers included John L. Dameron, assistant director in charge of the station; Dauphine Albrightton and Earl Evans, teachers at the A. M. & N. College; T. R. Betton and H. C. Ray, negro district extension agents.

Dr. Otis Advises Doing Good Job

Perhaps the best job of inspiring Negro farmers of Alabama to progress and achieve economic security is that being done by the farm and home demonstration agents of Alabama who held a planning conference in Birmingham during the past week.

Upwards of 60 agents were in attendance at the sessions, held in the Masonic Temple, with Dr. J. R. Otis, Director of Negro Work, in charge of the seminars covering every phase of farm life.

One of the thrilling reports had to do with the development of Fat Calf Shows in various sections of the state and indication pointing to how the Negro business men are assuming the responsibility of sponsoring the shows. Of course, in several instances, in many, many instances white chambers of commerce, city commissioners, county officials and civic minded citizens, are giving much appreciated co-operation in sponsoring fat calf shows, building community centers and in many other ways which are not reported in the press alongside the unfortunate incidents involving relationship between the unenlightened elements of both races.

Dr. Otis stressed the importance of the agents doing well what they are paid to do and leaving this business of solving the race and civil rights problem to those who can afford to stick their necks out. He stated that too little appreciation comes from sticking one's neck out for people who are not appreciative.

Editor of The Weekly Review told the agents that there is great need for social and civic-minded leadership in all areas in Alabama. And that the people can want more than their leaders want; that all are no more than they want.

He called attention to the need for an organization in Alabama and the entire South dedicated to the proposition of finding ways by which Negroes can do things the world needs done and is willing to pay for to the end that they may survive in a hostile society and at the same time, bring more wealth from outside Alabama into the Negrom community to sustain increase in higher levels of employment for our people.

He concluded that hand in hand with the emphasis for progress in production and acquisition of worldly goods should go the effort to produce finer and finer people who are ever aware of the fact that society gains nothing where bread is the thing it seeks most.

1000 Farmers Awarded At Southern U.

BATON ROUGE, La.—One thousand farmers, NFA boys,4-H club boys and girls, and professional workers (agricultural extension agriculture teachers, Jeanes supervisors, and other public school teachers) registered during the livestock poultry show and farmers' short course, held here recently.

These people came from 42 parishes of Louisiana. There were three short courses held during the four day period; one for farmers, one for rural youths and one for professional and rural leaders.

1000 FARMERS

Over 1,000 farmers received certificates of awards for attending the short course for a full four day period. The principal speaker for the general assembly programme during the event was Honorable Gilbert F. Hennigan, senator 14th senatorial district.

Senator Hennigan pointed out the importance of agriculture in the American way of living and its importance in Louisiana and the highest number of first and Dr. F. G. Clark, president of Southern University; T. J. Jordan, assistant state agent for work with Negroes, and J. W. Fisher, director of agriculture, Southern University, presided at the general assembly.

FIRST AND SECOND PRIZES

East Baton Rouge parish received

Over $1300 was given away in prizes in dairy calf, and $700 in poultry.

Those who received awards and prizes for champion and first prize stock were:

PRIZES FOR CATTLE:

Emma Harvey, Franklinton; Dorothy Galanan, Franklinton; Willie McGee, Tylertown; Edward Bayou, Geraldine Ellis, Matthew Turner,

ministration for paying for their farms in the last seven years.

$150 in Swine

calf,

poultry. The sum of

n away to farmers

living contest pro-

ored by The Times

chamber of com-

w Orleans, and 40

were given certifi-

Farmers Home Ad-

ington, Tangipahoa, Ascension and

St. Landry parish

Onnie Noff, Evans Turner, Lloyd Norwood, East Baton Rouge, Gilbert Artley, St. Landry Parish.

PRIZES FOR SWINE:

James Griffin, Bernita L. Temple, Charlie Overton, Tangipahoa; Curtis Payne, Caldwell Parish.

PRIZES FOR POULTRY:

S. J. Dixon, Scotlandville; J. D. Harrison, Shreveport; R. Hampton, Homer La.; Pearl Aaron, Colfax; Nancy Wells, Port Hudson; Veraldine Lewis, Baton Rouge; Charles Mayfield, Baton Rouge; Self Help League, Opelousas; Carrie Boyer, Baton Rouge; O. R. Jones, Minden.

SWEEPSTAKES PRIZES

FIRST PLACE—EAST BATON ROUGE WINNER OF HOLSTIEN HEIFER CALF, M. A. EDMOND, County Agent.

SECOND PLACE — WASHINGTON PARISH WINNER OF HOLSTIEN BULL CALF, T. J. BUTLER, County Agent.

THIRD PLACE — ST. LANDRY PARISH WINNER OF HOLSTEIN BULL CALF, Leon Robinson, County Agent.

Md. Far... From So...

Now Working w... Plans to Extract P...

By RUFUS WELLS

WINFIELD, Md.—After near- 28 years of unsuccessful farming his 40-acre tract of land here, -year-old Charles Costley plans reap a rich harvest in gold.

The ro...und farmer was in high ...irits Saturday as he ate dinner ... home with Lowell W. ...evens and H. Frank Rothery, ... white prospectors who are ...lping him extract gold from the ...luable ore on his land.

Confident that there is enough ...d on the land to make their ef...rts worthwhile, the three men ...re now doing preliminary work ...nd biding their time until ma...hinery can be obtained to ...eparate the gold from the ore.

Search Abandoned Earlier

They are not discouraged by the fact that a Washington mining company abandoned the search for gold on the land nine years ago after spending thousands of dollars and digging up 150 tons of earth.

Costley and his co-workers are tackling the job from another angle. Instead of looking for free gold—those bright, shiny nuggets the Forty-Niners found in California — they are attempting to extract gold from ... chemical process. ... is 53, and lives in Bethesda, Md., is a building contractor by trade. He has been assaying gold since a youth and met Mr. Costley when the precious metal was originally discovered on the Costley farm 12 years ago.

Mr. Rothery is 48 years old and a member of the Washington fire department.

Demonstration Successful

After dinner the three men left the small unpainted house where Costle... and returned to the mine ... work. As a demonstration, the men processed a piec of ore and produced beads of gold of 21 carats.

Of the three, Mr. Stevens speaks loudest in his expectations from the mine. He said:

"We are almost sure to run into a pocket of gold. There's got to be a mother lode around here somewhere."

A mother lode, he explained, is the vein that produced the smatterings of gold discovered on the land to date.

Most Likely Spot Found

The men work in a small wooden shed that covers the first gold mine shaft which was sunk on the farm about 12 years ago. The ore from which they are extracting gold, however, is not coming from this shaft but from another about 100 yards from the shed. The original shaft is 50 feet deep, the newer one 32 feet deep.

Stevens and Mr. Rothery discovered this spot by using an electronic gold detector called a "metaliscope." It was here that the detective gave the loudest buzz, indicating the most likely spot to obtain the sought-after metal.

Inside the shed is an eight-foot brick furnace that the men use for assaying gold, The gold found in the ore is not visible to the naked eye but can be discerned with the aid of a magnifying glass. It has to be removed from the ore chemically or by panning.

$25,000 Plant Scheduled

Mr. Stevens says he plans to put a $25,000 mining plant on the property this year. In this plant he plans to remove gold by a cyaniding operation and to process 50 tons a day.

It is estimated that in eight hours, one man could produce $57 worth of gold from the mine.

Many Offers Forthcoming

The men have had no trouble getting many offers to finance their venture but have politely turned all of them down. One millionaire, Mr. Stevens said, offered to place $50,000 in the venture.

Mr. Costley said a colored man from Baltimore came this week and offered $20,000 for use in the operations.

"I didn't even bother to get his name," Mr. Costley chuckled.

The three men plan to obtain the gold with their own funds. They are working on a "verbal, goodwill" basis.

In Winfield, a town of some 700 persons, located about 35 miles northwest of Baltimore, everyone knows Mr. Costley as the "man with the goldmine."

Must Be on Guard

A native of Baltimore, Mr. Costley has lived on the land for nearly 40 years. About nine years ago he gave up farming (the land failed to produce suitable crops) and he now earns his living by doing part-time work in a Winfield farm machinery store.

Evidence that an unknown person is taking more than a passing interest in the mine was discovered by Mr. Rothery on Saturday. Some of the samples unearthed by Costley and his coworkers had been stolen. Mr. Costley promised to tighten his watch on the mine.

The landowner has turned back hundreds of spectators who visited the mine within the past week.

Has Uses for Money

Mr. Costley said a white man in Winfield offers $10,000 for the land, "everytime I see him." Costley politely refuses to sell the valuable property.

The ore on Costley's land has been estimated at $18 a ton.

When asked what he will do with the money from the ore, Mr. Costley replied;

"I have plenty of uses for the money."

His wife, Mrs. Annie Costley, who cut down trees years ago to help him clear the land of debt, has plans too.

Negro Farmers Solve Crayfish Problem in South

WEST POINT, Miss. — (ANP) —Careful observation and clear thinking by two local Negro farmers here has probably solved the problem of how to get rid of the crop-destroying crayfish in the south.

Ideas of Ezell Orr, a cotton grower, and his neighbor, William Sanders, plus months of experimentation in cooperation with agricultural agent S. A. Robert and others have resulted in the use of cottonseed sprayed with 2½ percent DDT to halt the crayfish.

For years the hordes of hungry crayfish have raided farms along the black soil belt destroying acres of young corn, grass and cotton in this area.

The one method known to science of defeating the crustaceans was too expensive—putting a few drops of turpentine or cressote in each crayfish hole.

Orr and Sanders noticed in their everyday work that crayfish liked cottonseed better than anything else. They suggested that cottonseed by sprayed with the new insecticide, DDT, then set them out as bait, about a bushel to an acre.

Robert got his firm, the Gulf Mobile and Ohio railroad, to finance experiments. The plan succeeded. One cottonseed would kill a crawfish in a few hours, it was discovered, and this would poison the water in a hole and make it a grave.

State And Other Rights

Deep in the heart of the Tennessee Valley, at the state Bella Mina Experiment Station, a thousand farmers gathered this week in celebration of benefits received under the Farmers Home Administration. The state's two senators were there, and the representative from that district. Farm leaders attended. It was a great and significant occasion.

All around there were evidences of the good work done by the Tennessee Valley Authority. The farmers came from homes where life has been made better by TVA power. Some of those homes they had been able to purchase through FHA loans. They traveled by fields enriched through conservation methods worked out by the TVA. They looked over the work at the Bella Mina station and at all that was being done to improve their lands, their crop yields, their returns, and their home life.

And they knew, these farmers did, that all or most of these benefits had been made possible through federal action. The TVA would have been impossible as a state project. The FHA, drawing money from all the states, is doing what no state agency alone can do to help farmers to independence. Federal funds go into the maintenance of the farm experiment stations. Federal loans have helped to spread the benefits of electricity to rural homes. Washington is helping to conserve the country's soil. And so on, down a long list that must have been evident to those gathered at Bella Mina.

It would have been hard to convince any of the farmers there that federal assistance has taken away any of their basic rights. They know that there are such things as human rights and national problems as to which the federal government, as well as state and local governments, has obligations. And no doubt they would find it hard to see where any action the federal government has taken to improve the lot of farmers has deprived them of one iota of their right to solve those problems which are peculiarly local.

It was a great meeting at Bella Mina, and greatest of all, perhaps, because of its reminders that the federal government has done much to benefit the South. And it was great, too, because of its reminder that men like Sen. Lister Hill and Sen. John Sparkman and Rep. Bob Jones have done great things in behalf of and for the South in obtaining more federal benefits for it, while at the same time working unremittingly to protect the South's customs and ways from dangerous and unwise interference.

Spring Hill

The Constitution

Editor Constitution: It is with a great deal of pleasure that I call to your attention the enclosed reprint of a story that appeared in a recent edition of Newsweek, concerning the North Georgia Farm Community Improvement Contest.

The Farmers Club of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, sponsors of this contest, is, of course, extremely proud to have had a part in a program that resulted in so many outstanding improvements in the 69 participating communities last year. We are indeed proud of Campton Community, first-place winner in 1947, for their efforts in showing the nation, that despite the many nationally circulated stories concerning the race problems in Walton County, they have realized and appreciated the full co-operation of their Negro families in their over-all improvements.

Atlanta, Ga.

As you already know, interest in the contest this year is again running at a very high level. Participation this year has practically doubled that of 1947 in every respect. As compared with 69 communities, composed of 5,000 farm families, from 16 surrounding counties in 1947, we now have 113 farming communities, with 10,000 families, from 30 counties entered in the 1948 contest.

Tues. 6-15-48

Atlanta.

WILLIAM H. HOSCH,
Secretary Farmers Club,
Chamber of Commerce.

A Mechanized Farm—

What It Takes

The Progressive Farmer

By Price McLemore

Montgomery County, Ala.

July 1948

IN our 1946 farming, we completely mechanized 150 acres of cotton and 50 acres of corn. One man did all the work. On cotton fields that made a bale or more per acre all costs per bale, including mechanical picking were $56.28, or 11.3 cents per pound of lint.

Other fields of much poorer soil with 50 per cent of a stand made but a half bale per acre. All costs per bale totaled $135.50, or 27.1 cents per pound.

To mechanize 150 acres of cotton and 50 acres of corn calls for one man, plus a tractor of 32 horsepower; turning plow; double disc harrow; seed box converted to mount directly on tractor; stalk cutter; 4-row cultivator; rotary hoe attachment, and flame cultivator; 4-row planter; 2-row fertilizer distributor converted to carry 4 rows; a mechanical picker. This equipment cost $8,500 in 1945 of which $5,300 was for picker.

Machines needed to mechanize a two-mule family-sized farm are: tractor of 9 hp.; turning plow; double disc harrow; 1-row stalk cutter; seed box; 1-row tractor cultivator; rotary hoe attachment, and flame cultivator; 1-row planter, and 1-row fertilizer distributor. The grain and cotton of this small farm would be custom harvested.

On a farm growing cattle, corn, oats, and grain sorghum, as well as cotton, a tractor mowing machine, corn picker, one-man pick-up hay baler, and combine would complete mechanization.

July 1948

A farm repair shop is a real money saver; every year it will save about $5 for every $100 worth of farm machinery.

The family-sized farm is not passing except when measured by horse-and-buggy standards. Just what is a family-sized farm? In New York, it is a dairy farm with a milking machine, one-man hay baler, tractor, and electric power. It is a 50-cow unit; in the past it was a 15-cow unit. In the West, instead of 160 acres, it is a ranch of 5,000 acres and 150 beef cows. In the South, it is a cotton farm with 40 acres or less of cotton and corn and one or two mules. This small farm can and must be mechanized. Several large implement companies are developing small tractors which, with needed tools, will sell for $800 to $1,000. With such a tractor and needed tools, the family-sized farmer can compete with the large operator. The crop will be custom harvested. Or, four or five farmers may go in together and buy the larger equipment or patronize one of their neighbors who is willing to buy it.

July 1948

A number of people tell me that custom cotton picking is not practical. I know it is practical. In 1945 we earned $2,660 harvesting cotton with our mechanical picker.

A lot of people are afraid of mechanized farming. They think they do not know much about machinery. Starting a tractor on a cold morning does try your patience, but it is no harder than starting a balky mule. If you can drive a car, you can, with a little practice, do a beautiful job of operating any tractor equipment. Mechanized farming pays off—in more cash, in less back-breaking work, and in more time to do as you please.

Editor's Note.—Next month Col. McLemore will tell about his experiences with a mechanical picker, how he defoliates his cotton, etc. The reader should keep in mind that Col. McLemore is telling what has been done on his own plantation. These methods may not work on the reader's farm without some change to adapt them to soil, climate, and methods of culture.

Wide Use Of Cotton Picker Would Reduce Need of Labor

Journal Guide

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Although the agricultural trend is definitely toward further mechanization, only a high rate of adoption of the mechanical cotton picker can sharply reduce the need for hand-labor in the South within the next few years, says a publication issued recently by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The new publication—Progress of Farm Mechanization—points out that despite 100 years of substituting machines for animal and human power, 61 per cent, or 13 billion hours of the farm work were still being done by hand-labor four years ago.

However, the study indicates that increased mechanization will further reduce hand-labor in agriculture. There is an outside possibility that it may eliminate two or three billion hand-hours during the 10-year period, 1944-54, providing the mechanical cotton picker comes into general use, and the trend of eliminating hand-labor is speeded up throughout the country, the publication asserts.

LABOR NEEDS

Pointing to the labor requirements for maintaining the more complicated farm machines, the publication says that although two or three billion more hours of hand-labor may be eliminated throughout agriculture as a result of the adoption of mechanization, it would probably mean a net reduction of only one-third to one-half as many hours.

Least reduction in hand-hour requirements will take place in the performance of such farm chores as caring for sheep, poultry, and cattle, and in cultivating and harvesting such crops as sugar cane, potatoes, dry beans, fruits, and vegetables.

Greatest reduction in hand-labor will be effected in the farming of cotton, corn, wheat, and peanuts, the publication states.

LIVESTOCK CARE

Caring for livestock required the greatest percentage of hand-labor. Seventy-five per cent of the man-hours spent in livestock work on farms in 1944 were hand-labor. While hand methods in crops consumed 47 per cent of the total hours devoted to crop production.

Pointing to the future, the publication says that the next generation may see the successful development of the mechanical cotton picker and its widespread adoption in some cotton areas. The effects of such development on farm workers and on the pattern of southern agriculture during the next 30 years may be enormous.

The study concludes that further farm mechanization in the United States will mean that fewer people will be needed for farm work. But of equal importance is the possibility that mechanization will reduce the need for over-working during rush seasons and for the employment of women and children in the fields.

Machines Oust Hand Laborer In $35,000,000 Peanut Crop

The Montgomery Advertiser

Sept 11-12-48

By ATTICUS MULLIN

HEADLAND, Ala., Oct. —Farm machinery manufacturers have gone a long way in the last two years to perfect peanut harvesting machinery and their progress was shown Wednesday when a demonstration was made at the 300-acre experiment station at Headland with at least 50 persons interested in peanuts looking on.

That Alabama's 175,000 ton peanut crop, worth this year more than $35,000,000, is causing not only agromomists and farmers a lot of interest, but shellers and machinery people as well, was shown when four newly invented machines, pulled by tractors, moved into an 100-acre field of Dixie runners. They showed that hand labor is a thing of the past in the matter of digging, shaking and winrowing peanuts. Machines perfected by three manufacturers of farm machinery, and also by the United States Department of Agriculture, took part in the demonstration. Dean Funchess, of the Auburn experiment station, watched it as did Haygood Paterson, commissioner of agriculture and industries, Congressman George Grant and many scientists and shelling plant officials.

Only One Man

The digging, shaking and winrowing machines, with just one man to drive the tractor pulling them do the work of 14 hand laborers. And the problem of the peanut grower now is labor at harvest time. Peanuts should be harvested as soon as they are mature and dry. Due to lack of labor this has been impossible. The experiment station at Auburn, two or three years ago, began to interest manufacturers in machinery research to perfect machines to save labor. Auburn, itself, assigned men to assist in building a machine for the U. S. Department of Agriculture and that a machine took part in the demonstration here.

Grover Ray, the live and public-spirited superintendent of the Headland peanut shelling plant, promoted the tour of the peanut section. He was assisted by J. P. Wilson, head of the Headland experiment station, and by peanut shellers from several cities and states.

Dehydrating Process

The tour left Dothan early Wednesday and the first stop was at the Rocky Creek farm operated by Bill Womack, the head of the Flying Farmers at Ashford. There the party saw experiments going forward in drying peanuts, or dehydrating them to make them marketable. Auburn is doing the work here with the help of some of Mr. Womack's equipment and with his large building. This work will continue and already, some farmers who have had the moisture removed from their peanuts have sold them at Dothan, Graceville and other points at an advance of from 40 to 60 dollars a ton over peanuts with too much moisture. Of course, the research work has not been concluded but enough is already known to warrant the assertion that the dehydration of green peanuts to make them more marketable will be a regular thing in a year or two. Mr. Womack is already operating a commercial dehydration plant for blue lupine seed. Blue lupine seed will not come up if they contain too much moisture.

Graceville Plant

From Ashford the party visited the Greenwood Products plant at Graceville, Fla. This is the largest peanut-shelling plant in the world and shells more than 60,000 tons of neanuts in a season or ten per cent of the production of the United States. Last year this plant made one shipment of shelled peanuts to Toronto, Canada, for oil processing, amounting to 64 carloads. At Graceville the party was tendered a luncheon at which Grover Ray presided. Congressman George Grant and Haygood Paterson made short talks.

The experimen station at Headland was visited with a working demonstration of new peanut harvesting machinery. The labor-saving feature of this machinery where peanuts are winrowed, made favorable impression. J. P. Wilson told those assembled the Headland peanut experiment station is the largest in the world. The state recently purchased 300 additional acres. This area was planted in the Spring of 1948. Some of the plots have yielded a

Fla.; Morrow, of Graceville, Claude Tindel, of Graceville, Lynwood Seay, of Marianna; Grover Ray, of Headland; L. L. Connor, of Eufaula; John Phillips, of Albany; J. M. Culpepper, of Albany; Gibb Solomon, of Headland, Congressman George Grant and Representatives H. B. Larkin, of Elba.

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Africa.

Machine Steals Cotton Picker's Job, But He Becomes Builder Of Machine

MEMPHIS — The mechanical cotton picker is putting cotton pickers out of jobs but they are finding new jobs making the mechanical picker, Julius J. Thomas, industrial relations secretary of the National Urban League, disclosed last Friday as he outlined plans for a book he is writing.

In the book, which will be published by Funk and Wagnalls, Thomas will analyze administrative procedure in setting up fair employment practice conditions. His theory is that where top management takes a firm position, fair employment practices can be achieved in any work situation.

Fresh from a tour of manufacturing plants, which will take him eventually through more than 150 leading industries, Thomas cited International Harvester Corporation as an excellent example of the the Memphis, Tenn., plant of the as an excellent example of the achievement of fair employment practices.

That plant, he asserted, employs some 2,600 workers, with 26 per cent of the production workers and 18 per cent of the entire force being colored. He added that the contract between the corporation and the union representing the employees provides that promotion and job security are in no way to be affected by an employee's race.

The fact that this was being done in the South, Thomas said, proves that if management lays down such a policy at the top level it will be carried out down to the lowest worker.

He said colored workers in the Harvester plant are employed at all levels and receive the same wages as white workers performing the same tasks.

He accounted for the policy of International Harvester by saying that when Cyrus McCormick invented his first harvesting machine in Virginia, he was aided by a colored man and he determined then that he would always give colored workers fair employment opportunities. Each succeeding head of the corporation, Thomas said, has followed the pattern set by the founder of the corporation.

NEW FARM AID—Adam Wyatt, of Harpersville, (left, above), is shown examining the new cotton picker he has bought and which will be made available to Shelby County farmers. Explaining the machine's points are F. P. Sandlin and D. F. Bolton, of a Wilsonville farm equipment concern.

Mechanical Picker Lessens Expense Of Producing Cotton

BY TOMMY HILL
News Staff Writer

HARPERSVILLE, Ala., July 31—Cotton picking in Shelby County has got that new look!

And that new look passes with flying colors when judged by the "handsom[illegible] handsome" theory.

Adam Wyatt, of Harpersville, has purchased the first mechanical picker to be put into use in the county. The machine has proved to be highly successful in field tests for several years, and is expected to be a boost to cotton farmers.

The Wyatt farms, near here, have more than 900 acres of cotton in cultivation. Needless to say, the new machine will be put to use here first.

The automatic picker will pick up to 20 bales of cotton a day. Only the lint cotton is picked and no extra equipment is needed by gins to handle cotton from picker.

As is the case with hand-picked cotton, however, a drier and cleaner at the gin helps produce a better grade sample.

Three gins in the county now have these cleaners and driers, it was announced by A. A. Lauderdale, Shelby County farm agent. They include the gins at Vincent and Harpersville and the one now being installed by D. F. Bolton at his gin at Wilsonville.

Farm leaders in the county feel that the coming of the cotton picker will mean that farmers in the county will be able to produce cotton more economically, both in dollars and cents, and in labor saved for other farm work.

Predicts Cotton Picker Challenge May Be Met

NEW YORK—(NNPA)— The mechanical cotton picker is putting cotton pickers out of jobs but they are finding new jobs making the mechanical picker, Julius J. Thomas, industrial relations secretary of the National Urban League, disclosed last Friday as he outlined plans for a book he is writing.

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Branan Urges Southern Farmers To Prepare For Mechanization

WASHINGTON, DC — Urging livestock processing plants, for milk plants, flour and feed mills, bakeries, frozen food establishments, and many other industries.

CREATE JOBS.

These, the Secretary stated will create jobs for those seeking part-time off-farm employment. "It is only through such industrial expansion," he declared, "that the South can hope to attain that balance between farm and city that is the key to regional prosperity."

As the South mechanizes, Branan said many changes will take place, such as the development of larger farms, partly through the absorption of smaller ones, with a need for fewer hands to plant, care for, and harvest crops.

"I think that with proper guidance and assistance," the Secretary concluded, "this development will be

McLemore Proves That Small Land Owner Can Mechanize

(Editor's note: This is the last of three articles on an experiment conducted by Price McLemore, Waugh farmer, which indicates that even the small Southern farmer can mechanize —to his own profit.)

By R. F. HUDSON, Jr.

"What will become of the South's surplus farm population?" is a question Southern leaders have been thinking and talking about for years since the cotton picker became a reality.

The answer to date is that there's a labor shortage on the farm, and no families have been "plowed under" so far.

Most of the experts have pictured the South's cotton farms of the future as vast corporation farms with four-row tractors and cotton pickers operated by wage labor.

Price McLemore has proved on a 54 acre test farm near Waugh that it's practical for the two-mule farmer to completely mechanize. With cotton production speeded up, diversification, soil-building crops, and better pastures can make the family-size farm a happier place.

Manpower Need Is Reduced

Of course, even the one-row tractor can reduce by one-half or better the amount of manpower needed on the small farm.

"Fortunately, the first people to be displaced by mechanized farming are the women and children," McLemore points out.

James Wright who works on the test farm, has two younger sisters and a young brother who normally would be chopping and picking cotton. But with a flame cultivator, and a mechanical picker which will do the picking on a "custom basis," the younger members of the family are spared the back-breaking labor of cotton production.

A total of 1,600,000 families who were living on the South's farms in 1940 will be displaced by 1964, Arthur Raper, U. S. Department of Agriculture economist, has predicted. The rate to date is in line with the prediction—but jobs in town have pulled families off the farm before they were pushed off.

Montgomery County's experience is an example. There are four mechanical pickers in the county, each of which will do the work of 40 to 50 hand-pickers. In addition to the one on Price McLemore's farm, the Jack McLemore plantation has two this year, and Cecil Lane has one.

Hands Sought for Picking

But every day trucks are sent into Montgomery from this and surrounding counties to look for people to pick cotton. The price for picking this year is ranging from $1.75 to $2.25 a hundred—or about $30 a bale for the unginned staple. That means about $1.00 out of every $5.00 from a bale of cotton now goes for picking.

The International Harvester Company is turning out 1,500 pickers at its new Memhpis plant this year—or about an average of two for each of the South's cotton-growing counties. The Allis-Chalmers Co., which has a new plant at Gadsden, is planning production of a picker, as is the John Deere Company.

Whether the South's change to machines is a painless one depends on whether new jobs in town continue to keep pace with the arrival of machines. During the past year, 10,000 new industrial jobs were created in Alabama, according to a recent report of the Department of Industrial Relations.

Adjustment to Machine Age

"Can the people who leave the South's farms adjust to the machine age?" is another question often asked.

The war answered that one—if it needed answering in view of the generations of Southerners who've succeeded in adjusting in all parts of the nation.

During the war, cotton farmers built ships at Mobile, Pascagoula, Savannah, Wilmington and Galveston. Field hands became assembly-line workers in the arsenals of Huntsville. They built precision bombers at Marietta, Ga., and steel in Birmingham. They crowded into a village called Oak Ridge, Tenn., and provided the bulk of the labor for whatever mysteries go into an atomic bomb. Often, they rode busses or trucks 100 miles a day to get to work.

Very few of those who left the farm will ever go back except for family reunions, or a fishing trip. That's been the history of such migrations.

"Whatever else may happen in the change-over, there can't be much hope for those who stay on the farm until they do mechanize," McLemore comments. "For those who have been trying to live on an income of $278 a year a person, anything in town is better. For those who are left, there is the promise of a better way of life.

The South's "man with the hoe" is the last big group in the nation depending on hand labor to make a living in a machine age. Cotton in the South takes five times as much man labor to produce $100 of income as wheat does, and almost four times as much as to produce an equal dollar value of corn in the Mid-West.

What About the Future?

There are some question marks as big as the machine which holds the key to the future hopes of Southern cotton farmers.

How much of the South's cotton will the world buy? — for example. This year a whopping 15,000,000 to 16,000,000 bale crop is predicted. While that is being raised on one-half the number of acres planted to cotton in 1926, it's a near-record yield.

Research for new uses continues, but the race against rayon nylon and other chemically-produced fibres has not been in cotton's favor. The loss of a half-million bale market in automobile tire fabric in a single decade has been a blow.

What about the future price of cotton?

Last year as the cotton farmer was picking his crop, a speculation spree broke, and the price dropped from a near 40 cents down to 34 cents.

This year's crop estimate hit a shaky market and the price tumbled from 35 cents down to 31 cents — just above the present loan rate.

Crop control, the revival of world trade, the prospects of war or peace — these are question marks, too, which have a big bearing on what kind of life the South's farmers can look forward to.

Out at Waugh, Price McLemore talks about all these things as he discusses the future of cotton, which has been the South's hope and its curse for generations. There at "The Oaks," where slaves once did the work, a new kind of life has been created on the scene of the old.

When you talk to McLemore and watch "Pepper" Wright handling the one-row tractor, you begin to see "Peppers" and one-row tractors riding down the furrows of a million of the South's farms. You feel a burst of hope that they're going to ride right on into a horizon that will bring a better life for the whole South —one that will bring to the man who raises cotton a full measure of the good things America has created.

Cotton—Lots of it and good quality—being inspected by Price McLemore, Waugh agriculturist and inventor, and James Wright, Negro, at the conclusion of an experiment which indicates that, contrary to popular belief, mechanization is practical for the operators of small southern farms.

MECHANIZATION GAINS WITH COTTON RAISERS

Releasing Of Figures Precedes Meeting Next Month

LUBBOCK WILL BE SCENE

Mechanization of the American cotton farm has progressed to the point that approximately 5 per cent of the 1948 crop will have been produced by machinery from the first plowing to the final picking, the National Cotton Council revealed yesterday.

Millions of additional bales will have been produced in 1948 under semi-mechanical conditions, the council reports in announcing plans for the second annual Beltwide Mechanization Conference which will be held at Lubbock, Texas, Oct. 14-16.

Pickers Have Increased

The first conference, held last year at Greenville, Miss., dealt with the mechanization problems of the Central Belt specifically and the whole belt generally. This year the accent will be on the type of machinery adaptable to the semi-arid regions of the Texas Plains. Another year undoubtedly will see the problems of the Southeast receive the greatest attention.

The use of tractors on Cotton Belt farms has increased 40 per cent in the past three years, the council pointd out, with approximately one tractor for every three farms. This is expected to increase as the two-mule farm switches to the new type of small tractors which have been developed.

Pickers have increased from 285 in 1947 to 1200 this year, and strippers, used primarily in the West, have gained from 1500 in 1945 to 5000 in 1947.

Machinery To Be Shown

The Lubbock meeting will be for the purpose of seeing the newest cotton machinery in actual operation. Special plots have been developed at the Branch Experiment Station under the guidance of the Extension Service and A. & M. College of Texas.

In addition there will be reports on chemical weed control, which now is considered a better prospect than the flame cultivator; various soil preparation methods; chemical defoliants and insecticides.

The whole field of mechanization will be brought up to date as producers, educators, scientists, machinery manufacturers, chemists report on the advances which have been made in their fields since the meeting in Greenville a year ago last July.

Mechanization Boosts Profits On Cotton Farm

Auburn Extension Chief Addresses Meet In Texas

LUBBOCK, TEX., Oct. 14—Cotton production must be mechanized or those who depend upon it for a major part of their livelihood must accept a small income.

This is one of the "inevitables" confronting farmers in the South, P. O. Davis, director of the API extension service, Auburn, told the Coton Mechanization Conference here today. Equipped with a Georgia-stock, hoe and pick-sack no farmer can produce enough cotton at 30 cents a pound to provide an income equivalent to an adequate standard of living, he said.

"But a man who is fully mechanized for both production and harvesting can have a high income with cotton at, for example, 25 cents a pound," Davis stated in addressing cotton leaders from over the country.

He said high production per man-hour is the key to success in all agriculture, and can be gradually brought about with greater use of machines. At present, it was pointed out, cotton is the least mechanized of all major crops.

Machines Move Into Alabama Cotton Fields But Not Fast Enough To Replace Laborers Who Have Gone To Town For Employment

The Advertiser Montgomery, Ala. Dec 9-19-48

Mechanization Is Profitable On Macon Farm

Montgomery Ala. 10-17-48

Tractor Purchase Makes Lighter Work Of Tasks.

Montgomery Ala.

Cotton is still king in Macon County, but it has long since been dethroned on the farm of Earnest L. Story, Rt. 2, Tuskegee, Ala., who paid his land debt to the Farmers Home Administration within five years after he abandoned cotton and made his first step towards mechanization.

Today his farm is cited as a model of what can be accomplished with machinery and a minimum amount of labor.

Story purchased his farm with a loan from the Farmer's Home Administration in the Fall of 1939. In 1940 his crop plans included 33 acres of cotton, 50 acres of corn, five acres of peas, one-half acre of peanuts, 16 acres of oats, 10 acres of hay crops, and five acres of truck and garden crops.

For four years he followed this plan with minor variations. He made ends meet and met his annual payments, but a lot of stretching had to be done.

"I realized that something had to be done," said Story. "I had a maximum of 40 years to pay for the farm, but nobody wants to take that long. I just wasn't making it on cotton. I had three tenant families on the place and they left during the war to do war work. So I sold three of my mules and bought a tractor."

In 1944 Story planted peanuts and corn in lieu of cotton. He "did pretty well" on the peanuts that year and in 1945, but in 1946 he decided to drop peanuts because of the scarcity of labor. He increased his truck crops from two to five acres and made blue lupine seed a major crop.

It was in 1946, too, that he sold his light two-row tractor and bought a heavier two-row machine. Meanwhile, he had built up his herd of cattle from 10 head in 1944 to 20 head in 1945 and has maintained that number each year. He had 40 acres of permanent pasture including some serecia and kudzu since that time. He sells about 20 calves a year. Recently he added soybeans for oil as a money crop and has 20 acres in soybeans this year.

His sales of lupine seed averaged about 40 tons a year, and last year they brought approximately $80 a ton. He follows lupine with sorghum and hegari and last year he sold $600 worth of sorghum. The work of Mrs. Story, too, was a major factor in the success of the operation. She sold about $850 worth of truck, milk and other produce on the Tuskegee curb market each year. A live-at-home program supported by ample growing, canning and drying of foods was a great contribution to this family's success.

In the Spring of 1948 Story made the final payment on his farm to J. B. Turner, county FHA supervisor, having reached his goal within five years after the dethronement of cotton. There are no tenants on the farm now. Story carries on the operation by "swapping" work with his two sons who live nearby and who are also tractor farmers without cotton.

Two of the tenant houses have been razed to build machinery sheds. Story's equipment includes a tractor and equipment, a half interest in a combine, a grain seeder and a feed mill. He has a large trench silo in which he stores the production of ten acres of sorghum.

He has retained one mule, largely for garden and truck crop work, but questions the real need for the mule. Story believes the time has come for the two-horse farmer to get a tractor. A one-row tractor, in his opinion, will do the work of two mules and give the operator time to spare. If a two-row tractor is used on a two-horse farm it would be well for the owner to do as much custom work as possible. "With a tractor a man has more time to look after his pastures and do other things that he wants to do," Mr. Story said.

Mrs. Story's home and kitchen, too, have been thoroughly modernized. She has a running water system supplied by an electric pump in a spring that puts water in the kitchen, bathroom and yard. She has an electric refrigerator and cooks and heats the home with propane gas.

Making Cotton With MACHINES

II. "How I Lay Out Fields and Cut Fertilizer Costs"

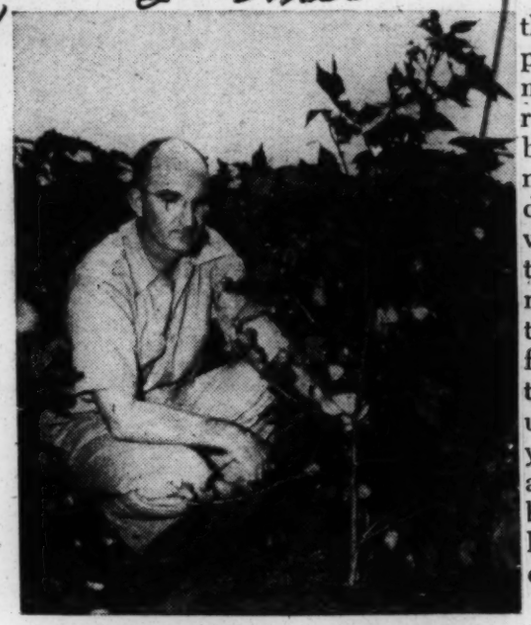
The Progressive Farmer March, 1948

By **Price McLemore**

Montgomery County, Ala.

IN mechanized cotton farming, field layout to get maximum efficiency from machines and labor is very important. Fields should be made as large as possible by removal of houses, outbuildings, fences, telephone and light poles, hedgerows, trees, and unnecessary roads and paths. This eliminates excessive turning around which causes undue wear and tear on the machines. Turning around, dodging stumps, etc., are expenses that produce no income. Removal of brush, scrub trees, and buildings will destroy hibernation quarters of the boll weevil and make insect control and defoliation possible by airplane.

Should land slope exceed 2 per cent, rows should be run on a contour to prevent erosion and to save moisture. In fields in which there is erosion, terraces are very necessary. Where the slope is not too great, these terraces should be 30 to 40 feet in width, then the field can be cultivated without regard to terraces. When this is done, it will be necessary to maintain the terraces twice a year. In cultivation and plowing, they will be gradually dragged down. This maintenance can best be done in the fall when planting a winter cover crop and in the spring when the cover crop is being plowed under. Some fields will require drainage.



Col. McLemore . . . a good start pays off in growth and yields.

Most soils in my section, as in the rest of the South, are very wasteful of plant food. Humid climate, ample rainfall, and soil textures cause a terrific leaching of nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potassium salts, and destruction of humus.

The fertilizer is broadcast by a spreader truck such as is used to spread lime and phosphate on pastures. Fertilizer is bought in bulk, thus saving the cost of bags. We save the expense of building and maintaining fertilizer warehouses. One of the greatest savings is made in the cost of handling. Planting is speeded up by not having to distribute fertilizer at the same time.

We have contracted the hauling, a distance of 17 miles, and spreading of our fertilizer under our supervision for $3 per ton in the past. We have now bought our own spreading bodies. The old method required a fertilizer warehouse plus $2.50 per ton for hauling, $4 for labor for handling, $3.50 to put it out, and $3 for bags, or a total of $13 per ton which is $10 more per ton than the cost of the method we are now using. With the spreader truck we can haul 17 miles and put out 25 tons a day.

For cotton, we distribute 500 pounds per acre of 0-20-14 15-element fertilizer just prior to turning the cover crop which is turned to a depth of 8 inches. We feel that this method of placing fertilizer is superior to that of placing it in a row. It is known that plant roots feed from their tips and by distributing the fertilizer throughout the row, the plant is constantly reaching new sources of plant food throughout its entire growth and maturity.

Very shallow cultivation, so that the fine hair-like roots will not be pruned as is commonly done, is necessary for the root system to reach the fertilizer that has been broadcast. What is considered normal cultivation is much too deep. Crops, cultivated shallow, will develop much better root systems and will withstand drouth and make better yields. The majority of those who have experimented with fertilizer have failed to realize that tillage affects the plants' ability to utilize the fertility of the soil. If you insist on deep cultivation, by all means place the fertilizer in a band for you will have very short lateral roots unable to reach out for constant new sources of plant food.

We have noted that the crop does not grow off as rapidly when fertilizer is broadcast as it does when a fertilizer containing nitrogen is placed in a band or bands 2 inches to the side and 2½ inches below the level of the seed. Nitrogen from a cover crop is not as readily available as a commercial nitrogen. Added commercial nitrogen gives a crop a quick and healthy start and is important. We put down 32 units of nitrogen per acre in the drill simultaneously with the planting. Our crops handled in this manner grow off as rapidly as crops on which a complete fertilizer is put in a band.

Editor's Note. — Next month Col. McLemore tells how he selects his cotton planting seed, how he plants to avoid chopping and make cultivation easy, and how he begins cultivation with rotary hoe and flamers.

Mechanized Farming — Threat or Opportunity?

The Progressive Farmer Birmingham, Ala. April 1948

SO many people have professed strong fears about the future of the South if mechanization is adopted that we think it worth while to examine this whole question more fully. Statements such as the following have led some people to see nothing but gloom ahead:

A cotton picker will pick as much cotton per day as 20 to 40 people. *A two-row cultivator* and flamer will do as much work per day as 40 men and 5 to 8 mules. *A four-row cultivator* can rotary-hoe up to 200 acres of cotton per day.

But let's look at the brighter side. Production per worker and per farm has been low in the South. USDA figures indicate that the South has produced about one-third as much per farm worker as has been produced in other leading farm areas. In every case where such low production exists, lack of improved machinery and equipment can be pointed to as one of the chief factors that has held down the average farm worker's income.

Mechanization will enable us to save and build our land more nearly than we have ever been able to do in the past. With mulepower we have never been able to build as many good terraces as we need. We have not been able to enlarge and improve pasture acreage needed to develop a real livestock program, or to so organize our system of crops and livestock to avoid high and low labor peaks. More power will enable us to do a better job in all of these fields. It will enable us to make better use of our human resources, it will give us more livestock and turn us into year-round farmers.

A study in Oklahoma showed clearly that the more livestock an area had, the more productive man-hours, the fewer single cash crop farmers, and the more acres per man, the more owners there would be. More and better power by helping us to produce more per man, to produce on a year-round basis, and to enable us to carry on a greater diversity of cash enterprises should lead directly toward more farm owners. Mechanization also makes possible many new rural industries such as Dean Chapman discussed in his "Winning Prosperity Team" last month. Better equipment will also bring us free time to do the things that we haven't always had a chance to do in the past:

1. *To beautify, paint,* and modernize farm homes.
2. *To put all our children* in school the full school term and all our women in the home where their full time and abilities are needed.
3. *To have more time* for studying better farm methods by trips, short courses, farm meetings, etc., and to make farm life happier by more recreation, reading, sports, neighborhood meetings, and the cultivation of friendships.

April 1948

For all those who are disturbed about mechanization we would reiterate the question we raise in the blurb for this month's Country Voices: "But may not a good life on the land for all who love it still be insured by 1) tenant-purchase plans, 2) cooperative use of machinery, 3) more livestock, dairying, poultry, 4) more rural industries?"

DANGER ON THE DELTA

The Courier-Journal Louisville, Ky.

With King Cotton going mechanical, a migration of the Negroes is on—and it may spell trouble

Sun. 5-23-48

By CAREY LONGMIRE, Courier-Journal Special Writer

GREENVILLE, MISS., May 22.—When Deep-South romantics extol magnolias, lanterns on the levee and miles of blooming cotton, this is what they are talking about.

Here is the Mississippi Delta. For 200 miles up and down the rolling Mississippi, it stretches into the back country, lush and flat. Here is the richest concentration of cotton land on earth. Here also is the heart of the Black Belt; Negroes outnumber whites by two, three or four to one in whole counties.

Some planters operate tens of thousands of acres. That kind of farming, by sharecropping, takes prodigious numbers of human hands for labor. Ever since the slave traders dumped helpless men and women from Africa here centuries ago, that labor has been black.

On the Lid

Greenville is the center of the Delta country, and it is booming. Cotton sells at better than 32 cents a pound—three times its prewar price, seven times as much as at the low spot in the depression. Cash is flowing in rivers almost as big as the Mississippi.

Yet Greenville sits nervously on the lid of a revolution.

That revolution might conceivably erupt into a volcano of race warfare between blacks and whites such as has not been seen in the Deep South since the Yankee occupation after the Civil War. The Courier-Journal

The revolution spells drastic change—and a gigantic headache—for the entire nation. Experts of the Department of Agriculture say that in five years, perhaps 5,000,000 Negroes may be forced off the cotton lands of the Deep South. Louisville, Ky.

Trains Jammed

Sun.

Railroad officials say trains for Chicago already are jampacked almost daily with migrants. Philadelphia, Boston, New York and the Harlems of a dozen other Northern cities are almost certain to be inundated. The wholesale shift in population is as profound as any single effect of the Industrial Revolution. 5-23-48

The why of the revolution is simple. King Cotton is turning mechanical. A machine which picks cotton and which does the work of dozens of human hands is today an actuality, in operation. This fall, for the first time on a major scale, scores of plantations will harvest their entire cotton crop with machines.

This has the effect of sweeping with a gigantic broom to wipe out the jobs of millions. Machines plant the cotton, as well. Flame-throwers—the searing weapons of wartime—are in use to thin the plants. Up to now, this was a laborious hand operation of "chopping" the new cotton sprouts with hoes to thin the crop. Sun.

The Comparison

5-23-48

Some of the giant Delta plantations will operate as many as 150 mechanical pickers each. Typical is the story of Glenn Ragsdale's 600 acres, across the river in Louisiana. Last year, he planted 277 acres to cotton. His only labor was three Negro tractor drivers. Before, 50 men, women and children would have lived on his farm.

Or take an even sharper figure. A man usually picks 200 pounds of cotton a day at a wage of about $3 per hundred pounds. One machine, pulled by a tractor, can pick 15,000 pounds of cotton in an eight-hour day. Or it can switch on lights and work around the clock. The Courier-Journal

In the sugar-cane and rice plantations of Louisiana, virtually all planting and harvesting already are mechanical.

Where will the ousted millions go, except to the Harlems of the North—perhaps to the relief breadlines? Louisville, Ky.

Yet most farsighted Negro leaders say flatly that the machine cotton-picker is a Godsend. For the first time since his ancestors' arrival on American soil, the average Negro, they say, will be forced to carve out a life of his own and to think for himself, without following blindly the dictates of a plantation employer for whom he works as a sharecropper, generally on the thin edge of insecurity and bankrutpcy. Sun.

One Tennessee pastor who works closely wth the Urban League says: "The sooner every cotton planter mechanizes completely, the better for the Negro. It will kill sharecropping. It will be the greatest blessing in the South's history." 5-23-48

A former County agent of the Department of Agriculture says hotly:

"Under sharecropping, a Negro has a white man to think for him. The white man gives him 10 acres, a mule and a house. As long as the Negro does as he is told, he gets along. If he does not, no one knows what may happen to him."

Or take an educated Negro's analysis. This man is a physician in a little Negro cotton town in the Delta, one of the 50 Negro physicians in the entire State of Mississippi—which has more than a million Negro inhabitants. The doctor declares:

"Certainly, there will be suffering, for a time. But if the Negro has to make a new life for himself elsewhere than in cotton, it will force him to be resourceful. He cannot suffer much more than he is suffering here."

The Courier-Journal

Never Had Ceiling

Cotton is still King here in the rich Delta flatlands; but should an economic storm break, the price inevitably will go tobogganing downward. And all observers agree that the 5,000,000 Negroes now dependent on cotton will be better off if they can somehow establish themselves in other occupations. Sun.

Cotton—alone among most major United States commodities—never had a price ceiling in the war. The Southern cotton bloc in Congress saw to that. Today, federal warehouses hold a year's cotton crop, something like 12,000,000 bales, off the market. The Congressional cotton bloc also saw to that. Louisville, Ky.

Cotton, in other words, is priced high artificially, through the South's political power. When a crash comes, the small one-man-and-a-mule cotton farmer will be shouldered aside by the mechanical efficiency of the newly mechanized big-scale plantations.

But cotton hardly will remain King anywhere except in a few areas such as this lush Delta region. It looks as if the Deep South's Negroes are lucky to be getting out of cotton once and for all, no matter how cataclysmic the change in their lives may look at this moment. 5-23-48

This revolution in cotton, it goes without saying, lies at the root of many of the hysterical fears of Southern whites—the fear psychosis which has set Southern politicians into violent anger at President Truman for his civil-rights program.

Associated Press Photo.

Mechanical cotton-pickers like this will be the rule, rather than the exception, on the Delta next autumn.

California Man's Hoe Is Independent Mechanical Hoe

Nashville, Tenn.

Cuts Out Leaning

Fri. 1-30-48

Davis, Calif.—(G)—A mechanical hoe run by compressed air, invented by Frank King, Woodland sugar beet grower, is a practical machine mechanically, but actual savings in operating costs are not known yet.

According to J. P. Fairbanks, University of California agricultural engineer who saw the new air power hoe demonstrated recently. It is especially suited to large row-crop farms. Up to 20 rows can be weeded at once with them.

A tractor draws an air compressor slowly down the field with 10 air hoses attached on each side. Each hose is connected to a specially built hoe with a piston at the top end of the handle. Compressed air jabs the blade back and forth in the ground. All the operator does is guide it. The stroke is adjustable, from less than 1 to over 3 inches. Blades are detachable.

Fairbank, College of Agriculture farm specialist, who worked on a mechanical vibrating hoe on wheels about fifteen years ago observes:

"Under suitable conditions this new air power hoe should increase the work a man can do in a day, but I wouldn't attempt to guess how much. The savings would have to be quite high though, because the hoes cost about $165.00 each to make, plus the cost of the air compressor, tractor, and driver's woges.

"One sure thing, "he adds," you don't have a chance to lean on the handle and rest; it vibrates like a jock-hammer, but not so hard. You also have to keep up with the crew else the hose will pull the hoe right out from under you."

Mechanization And The Worker

John Temple Graves

"You dare not make war on cotton."

The Record

"No power on earth dares make war on cotton. Cotton is king!" So spake Senator Hammond, of South Carolina, in 1858. I was remembering him when one of the king's present prime ministers talked to the Birmingham Rotary club about it last week. Vice President Craig Smith, of Avondale Mills, reported purples are more royal than ever. Cotton still is king, and the monarchy has been made more healthily limited and constitutional by the war-making. Competition has brought new beauties, uses, and salesmanship and machines that will make vital new economies. And none of the warmakers, from "rabbit-fur to ramie" have toppled cotton from its throne as the world's fabric. More than 70 per cent of all fabric is cotton still.

Columbia, S.C.

Mr. Smith sees mechanization coming with revolutionary aspects to cotton and cotton textiles. But he agrees that even though people may be put out of work such royally remunerative work will exist for those who remain that their wealth will make a new civilization of demands, and employment to fill the demands. The South will need fewer people to produce its cotton and textiles but will have more money and that will make a demand for other farm work and industrial uses, and, even more, for school teachers, doctors, lawyers, bankers, baseball players, beauticians, bootblacks, architects, gate-keepers, vice presidents of things (if it were possible, and even, perhaps, people to keep rest rooms clean.)

Wed. 5-26-48

You can hear that machinery is not displacing but replacing farm labor in the South. Clemson's extension service specialist, J. M. Eleazer, says the cotton picker, flame cultivator, baby tractor, and other machines are not putting people out of work so much as they are doing the work of people who have already left, including many called to war service who never returned. From 1940 to 1947 the white people occupying farm homes in the South decreased 8.2 per cent and the nonwhites decreased an enormous 36.4 per cent.

Mr. Eleazer, too, agrees that employment will be happier and more remunerative for those who remain to run the machines. He cites a South Carolina farm where "five intelligent, well-paid tractor operators are now replacing, not displacing, 60 poorly paid and poorly housed men and as many mules—doing a better job and the farm is more productive . . . Fewer folks on our farms—that is all to the good; it means fewer folks to divide our farm income between . . ." Another interesting observation he makes is that Southern farming offers opportunity to intelligence now as the old system did not. In the past it was the most intelligent and ambitious farm families that left to seek a better living. Now "with intelligence riding power, intelligent men can earn a reward befitting them there on the farm."

Wed.

This could mean that Negro migration from southern farms is leaving the best, not the worst. Where do those who leave go? Many move away from the South, of course, and if that lessens the southern percentage of colored population and increases the percentage in other places, the race problem should become easier for the South to handle and the other places to understand.

5—26—48

Many Negroes go to southern cities and are absorbed in the industrial expansion in process there. According to some surprising statistics quoted by Editor Santford Martin in the Winston-Salem Journal, the Negro in Southern cities is better off financially than in other cities. In the South Atlantic area 4.8 per cent of Negro families have incomes of $5,000 or over. This per cent exceeds that in New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Boston. Conversely, only 10.4 per cent of Negro families in the South Atlantic cities have incomes of less than $1,000, a smaller percentage than in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia and only slightly larger than in New York (10 per cent) and Baltimore (9.2).

The Record

If they work it right, are fair and scientific and alert, the mechanization that is coming to Southern agriculture can mean great things for the whole people of the South. The decline in agricultural population may be bad in a moral and spiritual way but it is nothing new. The per cent of our national population needed for agriculture has been decreasing ever since the War Between the States. More than half our people were farmers just after that war. By 1929 the proportion had fallen to a bare 25 per cent. In 1947 only 19.3 per cent were farmers.

Columbia, S.C.

The same thing is going on in industry. "Factories Can't Employ Everybody" we were warned in an arresting article in the Atlantic Monthly a few years ago, and farms can't either. The answer is an increase in civilization and its demands as a result of farm prosperity and factory prosperity. It is in new employment in the so-called service occupations (for so many of which, high and low, incidentally, colored people have a peculiar genius if only their professional champions will stop making them so smotheringly self-conscious.)

5-31-48

Planter Says Mechanization Will Save Southern Farmer

The News

Mechanization will be the salvation of the Southern farmer, in the opinion of Col. Price McLemore, Montgomery County planter and inventor.

Birmingham, Ala.

Col. McLemore, who speaks tomorrow at the Downtown Lions Club meeting, is doing all in his power to make farm life more liveable for the small "one mule" farmer.

Jul. 8-3-48

An idea Col. McLemore obtained (indirectly, of course) from Mussolini is expected to revolutionize farming in the South.

While looking at a prewar news reel of some of Il Duce's flame throwers in action, McLemore got an idea.

He had been experimenting with mechanization of cotton farming. He wanted to eliminate the picturesque family field workers. The cotton picker was a step, but there still remained the chopping and weeding crew. They had to be eliminated before completely mechanized cotton production was possible.

8—3—48

'SEEING THE FLAME THROWER IN ACTION, he wondered if such a device couldn't be used to burn weeds off fields, yet not harm cotton stalks. The "Sizz Weeder," on which he holds process patents, was the answer. The flame cultivator is expected to keep the farm family off the fields.

8-3-48

"Mechanization," said Col. McLemore, "will allow the small farmer to keep his children in school and his wife in the home. His income will remain the same."

Col. McLemore served in the Air Force in World War II. He owns "The Oaks," a plantation in Montgomery County, on which he has proved that his mechanization theories are practical.

His subject here will be "What Mechanized Farming in Alabama Means to Your Business."

INVENTOR TO SPEAK — Col. Price McLemore.

Test Shows Mechanization Practical For Small Farmer

(Editor's Note: Is mechanization practical for the small farmer? Results of a revolutionary experiment conducted by Price McLemore, Waugh farmer, indicate strongly that the answer is—yes. This is the first of three stories, to appear on consecutive days, about the experiment and what—as the result of it—small Southern farmers may anticipate in the way of augmented income).

By R. F. HUDSON, JR.

"Yep, it looks like Pepper and the Cub have about settled the argument over whether it's practical for the small farmer in the South to completely mechanize." That's Price McLemore's way of summing up the first year of producing cotton on a 54-acre test farm which adjoins his larger place near Waugh.

"Pepper" is the nickname of James Wright, a young Negro farmer who has raised a crop of cotton without "putting his foot in a furrow, or slicking a hoe handle." The "Cub" is the first of International Harvester's one-row tractors to be equipped with every implement needed to raise a crop of cotton. All of the major tractor makers are turning out one-row tractors, but there's been a question as to whether they were practical for doing all of the work on typical two-mule farms.

Outlook Good

While the final dollars and cents tally won't be complete for a time, the cotton on 30 acres is ready for picking, 10 acres of grain sorghum looks good, and there are 10 head of beef cattle on the 14 acres of improved pasture.

It was McLemore who invented the flame cultivator, thus forging the last link in the mechanical production of cotton. Last year he saw his dream of a machine-made crop come true on the rolling acres of "The Oaks," a run-down plantation he bought after getting out of the Army.

But raising a crop with four-row equipment, and seeing his invention in mass production were not the last of McLemore's dreams. A cotton planter with an engineer's approach to production, he also has a deep concern about what happens to people.

"You know how much guessing there's been about how the cotton picker and the flame cultivator are going to affect the South," he recalls. "Most of the guessers have been saying that the tractor doesn't have much to offer the two-mule farmer."

It's true that the experts haven't seen much hope for the family-size farm in the South of the future. McLemore, who's called on to take part in most of the conferences on farm trends in the future, has always said that the small farmer can compete, but they could see four-row equipment on big tracts of land, and they couldn't see the two-mule farmer in the mechanized picture."

But they knew that made sense. But they couldn't believe it was practical," McLemore explains. "They

all his life in the Waugh section of Montgomery County, and since he was a boy has known what it is "to follow a mule from kin til can't."

Required Time

"I didn't know anything much to begin with except for what Mr. McLemore taught me about running a tractor one year," he says. "It took me a little time to get on to setting a flame cultivator, and setting the rotary hoe right for the middles."

"I'm glad not to have to plow a mule any more," he says with real feeling. "It makes a man feel good to be able to turn out the work with a tractor. When dinner time comes, you just shut off the motor and don't have to worry about looking after Old Blue."

One of the first problems McLemore ran into was that the major implement manufacturers had overlooked the one-row tractor's needs in some respects.

"Take that rotary hoe over there, for instance." He pointed to the small wheel of steel claws. "They've been turning out those in gangs for four-row work, but there wasn't one on the market for the one-row tractor."

Problem Solved

McLemore might have had to make some of the implements himself had it not been for a chance meeting with John L. McCaffery, president of International Harvester. The two met at a mechanization conference at Mississippi State's Delta Experiment Station.

"I explained what I was trying to do and the problem of not being able to get some one-row stuff." McLemore says, "and within an hour he had passed the word on to his production men to cooperate."

"Cooperation" in one instance meant that an assembly line had to be shut down half a day to turn out a single-row planter!

Today, the Cub has as many extras as a car dealer wants to put on for the lucky buyer of a new car.

Here's the way the Cub is outfitted. It has two tanks over the rear wheels for fueling the flame cultivator. There's a small stalk cutter, a cultivator, a planter with hill-dropping attachment to eliminate hand-thinning, a rotary hoe, and a hay mow—in addition to plowing and cultivating attachments.

With this equipment, Wright had done all the work which two men—usually with the help of their wives and children—normally do. Soon the machine picker will go through the 30 acres of cotton at the rate 40 or 50 hand pickers would go.

"Some who've seen this cotton say it will do a bale to the acre," McLemore answered when asked how much of a living a man could make using a tractor on a small farm. "I'm not counting on that until it's weighed. But it looks like a man with a tractor ought to be able to net from $1,500 to $2,000."

The average gross income per farm family in Alabama has been $920 for the last five years.

That's enough to indicate that tractor farming, plus planting soil-building crops and building permanent pastures, can make a big difference in the life on Alabama's family-size farms. (Second story tomorrow).

Mechanization Termed Answer To Problems Of Southern Farmers

Mechanization in farming has brought such revolutionary changes that it is hard to comprehend, Price McLemore, farmer from Waugh, Ala., told the Rotary Club Wednesday at the Whitley Hotel.

Speaking on "The South and Its Business of Farming" McLemore [illegible] back his statement. He said that it requires seven and one-half hours to plant an acre of cotton by the usual farming methods, but only 10 minutes by mechanization.

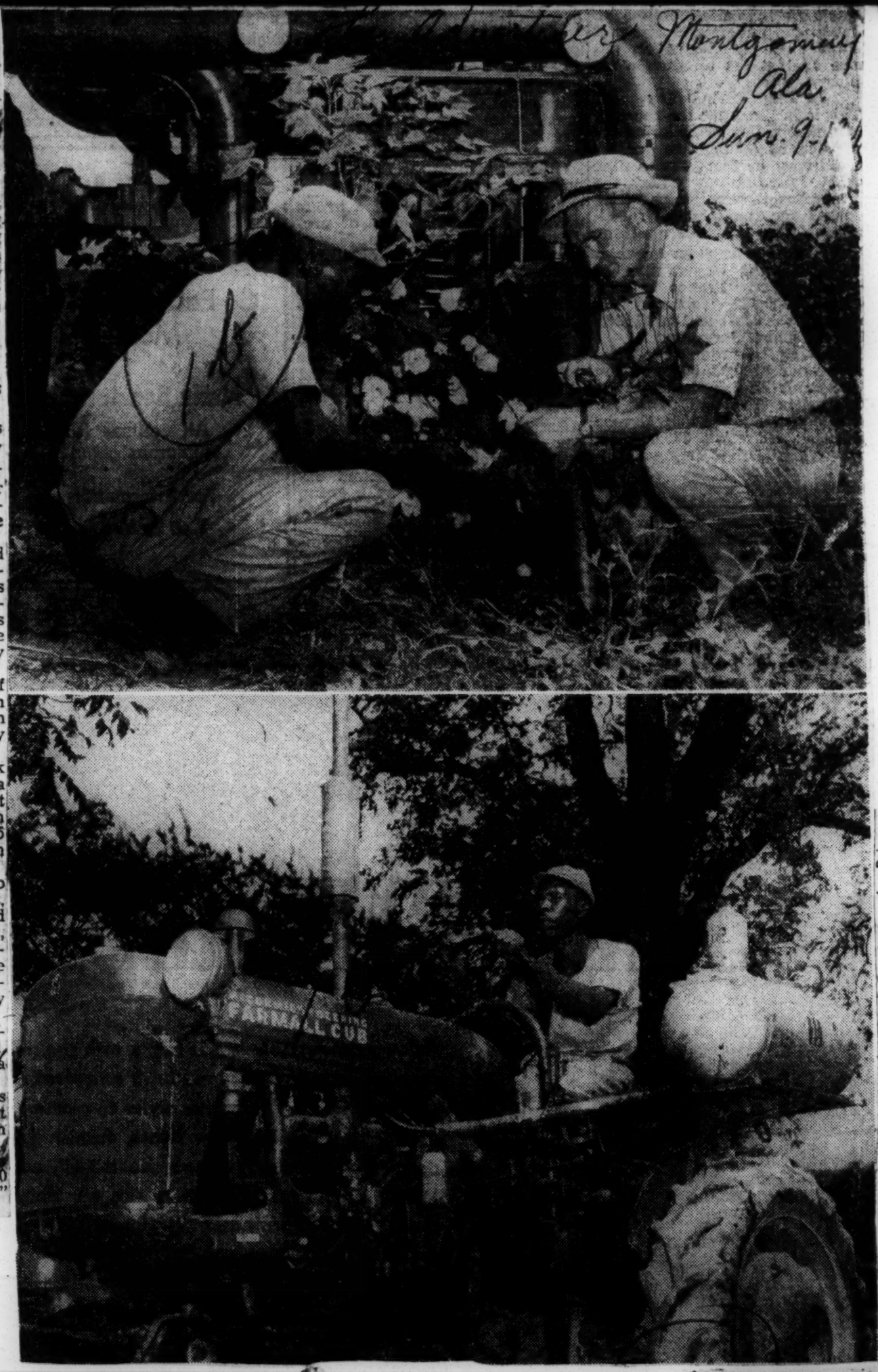
He said it took 17 and one-half hours to plant an acre of cotton and thin it by the usual farm methods—only 15 minutes by mechanization.

McLemore said it usually took 13 hours and 20 minutes and a cost of $4.00 to hoe an acre but the same thing can be done with the mechanization process in 15 minutes at a cost of 47 cents an acre.

He said it took 140 hours to pick a bale of cotton by hand but, through mechanization, one and a half hours. He explained that, by using only mechanized equipment it was possible to complete a bale of cotton, including planting, in 11 hours whereby, by hand, it required 235 hours.

"Agriculture is the only industry that creates wealth," he said. "Other industries only render a public service."

"As to whether the farmer is receiving a disproportionate part of the national income is shown by the fact that the farmers constitute 18 per cent of the nation's population, but only receive 10 per cent of the national income," McLemore stated.



RESULTS OF MECHANIZED FARMING being inspected, top, by Price McLemore, Waugh farmer, and James Wright, young Negro, who conducted experiments to determine if this method of cultivation would be practical for the small farmer. Mechanical cotton-picker is shown behind them in lower picture. Wright is shown with one-row tractor, used on his 54-acre farm. "Without it," said Wright, "I've cultivated 17 acres in a day. The best I ever did with a mule was four acres a day—and that takes a lot out of the man and the mule.

CAREFUL OBSERVATION and clear thinking by two Negro farmers at West Point, Miss., has probably solved the problem of how to get rid of the crop-destroying crayfish in the South.

Ideas of Ezell Orr, a cotton grower, and his neighbor William Sanders, with months of experimentation in cooperation with Agricultural Agent [illegible], have resulted in the use of cottonseed sprayed with 2½ per cent DDT, to halt the crayfish.

For years the hordes of hungry crayfish have raided farms along the black soil belt, destroying acres of young corn, grass and cotton in this area. Robert got his firm, the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad, to finance experiments. The plan succeeded. One cottonseed would kill a crayfish in a few hours, it was discovered, and this would poison the water in a hole and make it a grave.

THE HOMECOMING conference of the New Farmers of America, with 450 delegates from 16 states, closed at Tuskegee Institute last week with top honors going to Cornell Young, of East New Market, Md., in the oratorical contest. The award of star superior farmer went to Clyde Royster, of Littleton, N. C., and the H. O. Sargent award to Wilmer McGee, of Franklinton, La.

James Bryant, Bricks, N. C., and retiring student president, stressed the importance of friendliness and cooperation among fellow workers. During the year, President Bryant visited a number of state fairs and was impressed with the progress N. F. A. boys are making in growing prize-winning livestock. This organization of 26,083 Southern Negro farm boys reports for the year, 819 local chapters whose members are engaged in 23,828 livestock and crop productions projects valued at $698,183.

Rupert Seals, 16, Douglass High School, Lexington, Ky., was elected national president for 1949.

NFA Entry Awarded Dairy Stock Prize

The Courier 10-23-48

Pittsburgh Pa

UNIONTOWN, Ala.—Under sponsorship of the local Exchange Club more than 130 entries from four counties took part in the second annual Uniontown All-Negro Dairy Show here last week when Jerry Cole, Marengo County NFA, won first prize with the heifer he entered adjudged grand champion.

New Farmers of America and 4-H clubbers, along with adults, made entries from Hale, Marengo, Perry and Dallas Counties. Sponsors of the show said that Negroes are now turning to dairy farming as a means of increasing their incomes. Prizes were awarded to owners of the best stock in each class. Eight entries in each class were judged for prizes.

HIGH INCOMES NOTED

Coles' grand champion prize amounted to $200. Second prize went to Dorothy Johnson of Dallas County, a 4-H Club member. Dr. J. R. Otis, Tuskegee Institute extension service leader, cited the stock show as an outstanding example of cooperation between the colored and white people in the four-county area where it is said that Negro farmers receive approximately $16,000 every two weeks for dairy products.

Tal 10-23-48

OTHER RESULTS

Lot 1, Class 1—Won by Washington Carter, Perry County; Joe Milton, Perry, second; Willie Carter, Perry, third.

Lot 2, Class 1—Won by Willie Thomas, Marengo; Joe Dansby, Perry, second; Allen Wagstaff, Perry, third.

Lot 3, Class 1—Won by Dottie Mae Johnson, Dallas; Annie P. Washington, Marengo, second; Frank Jones, Marengo, third.

Lot 4, Class 1—Won by Henry Dansby, Perry; Pharis Paige, Hale, second; Louis Williams, Perry, third.

Class 2, Lot 1—Won by Sarah Bennet, Dallas; Marie Washington, Dallas, second; Marie Mitchell, Dallas, third.

Class 2, Lot 2—Won by Jerry Coleman, Marengo; Tommy Nash, Marengo, second; George Hunter, Marengo, third.

YOUNG SOIL TILLERS MEET AT TUSKEGEE

Herald Tribune

Mar 8-16-48

'New Farmers' of South Are Told of Dignity and Prestige of Their Occupation

By GEORGE STREATOR

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., Aug. 15—Negro youth of high school age in attendance here at the opening of the fourteenth annual convention of the New Farmers of America were told today to hold their shoulders up because the trained farmer has as much prestige in this country as any other skilled worker.

Their organization parallels in sixteen Southern and border states the Future Farmers of America for white rural youth. Both are under the direction of the United States Office of Education. The Negro group was proposed by the late Dr. H. O. Sargent, then Director of Negro Agricultural Education.

In the welcoming address, Dr. I. E. Derbigny, Dean of the Institute, said that this year's session was brought to Tuskegee and Macon County, Ala., partly out of tribute to the men who came here for the first convention and partly because this area demonstrated the best and the worst agricultural practices in soil conservation and methods of marking.

Worth of Modern Farmer

Dr. William T. Spanton, chief of the agricultural education service in the United States Department of Education, stressed the theme of the farmer's personal dignity and his importance to the country when he has modern machine techniques.

He said that 50 per cent of all American farmers still reside in the South, the area most badly in need of trained men for agricultural pursuits. He urged the young Negro farmers to encourage more volunteers who would be of value to themselves as well as to their race and country.

He praised the seventy-ninth Congress for passing the George Graham bill which provided $10,000,000 for the leader-training program sponsored by the Department of Education, but said that the shortage of trained agricultural teachers still prevented the full use of the authorization.

War enlistments and war industry employment had disrupted the farm training program, he said, reducing the trained men who stayed in agriculture from above 65 per cent to about 50 per cent today.

Return of Veterans to Land

Sidney B. Simmons, North Carolina Superintendent of Vocational Agriculture and the oldest man in the agricultural educational service among Negroes, said that 5,000 Negro veterans of World War II had returned to farming in his state under the GI bill, and that most of them owned their farms.

Texas, North Carolina and Georgia have 4,207, 3,019, 2,411 and 2,200 members enrolled. Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi have up to 2,000 members each. Most of these are Negro state workers whose salaries are paid by the states with federal aid.

Mr. Simmons advocated the appointment of a Negro specialist to develop a program in this field for the United States Office of Education.

Mar-8-16-48

The new farmers had about 450 chapter members present today. About 200 more are expected, and they will come, like others, mainly by chartered buses, private cars and trucks from nearby areas. Many of the farm youth are quite young, some being hardly more than 13 years old.

Membership is of four kinds, associate, collegiate and honorary. More than 125,000 have been on the rolls since the founding in 1935 at Tuskegee Institute.

New Farmers Of America Hold Tuskegee Session

The Daily Word

Dec 25-26-48

By RUTH CORDER

WASHINGTON, D. C.— (NNPA) —The annual national convention of New Farmers of America, held recently at Tuskegee Institute, was designated as the "Home Coming Convention" because the NFA was organized at Tuskegee in 1935.

Officers were elected at this convention to serve for the year 1948-49, as follows: Rufus Seals, Lexington, Ky., president; Charles C. Jackson, Rodesdale, Maryland, 1st vice president; Robert Jackson, Millbrook, Alabama, second vice president; Thomas Bittle, Chesterfield, South Carolina, secretary; Willard Dallas, Ada, Oklahoma, treasurer and Frank M. Harris, Covington, Tenn.

On the basis of the state reports the national executive secretary, Prof. J. R. Thomas of Virginia State College, presented the convention with a summary of the year's NFA achievements. Professor Thomas reported that 819 departments of vocational agriculture in the 16 southern states sponsor local NFA chapters, with a total of 26,083 active members.

One of the principal objectives of these farm boys studying vocational agriculture in the public schools is successful establishment in farming. According to vocational agriculture teachers reporting, there are 16,520 former NFA members presently engaged in the farming occupation.

Active members are also becoming progressively established in farming as indicated by the present total membership investment in farming of $698,183.21.

One-third of the active members are making special efforts to increase their production by the use of improved crop and livestock practice. Sixty-seven per cent of the members are engaged in livestock loss prevention work. As a part of their farm management training NFA members are taught to save and invest their money wisely. Definite thrift practices are being carried out by 7,544 members, and 782 members invested the profits from their farming projects in United States Government bonds and stamps.

Carrying out the objective of cooperative training for NFA members, 76 percent of the NFA chapters cooperated with other groups in agricultural or community improvement work, and one-half the chapter engaged in such cooperative activities as farmhand work and organized conservation work with soils, trees and wild life.

Members of 699 chapters engaged in organized home improvement work, which included landscaping, building modern conveniences, and constructing labor saving devices for the farm. There were 9,489 members repaired or reconditioned their farm machinery 5,124 members repaired farm buildings, and 6,947 members were provided experience in such cooperative efforts as buying and selling agricultural commodities.

NEW FARMERS OF AMERICA MEET—Sixteen states were represented at Tuskegee Institute this week when the National New Farmers of America held its 14th annual convntion. A portion of the delegates and officials of the organization are shown above.

Latest In Agriculture Practices Discussed At Tuskegee Institute

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Aug. 18—The latest developments in scientific agriculture were discussed at Tuskegee Institute this week when members of the national New Farmers of America assembled for their 14th annual convention.

The organization—for Negro agriculture students—functions similarly to the Future Farmers of America.

This session was the "homecoming" convention for the N. F. A., as the first national convention was held at Tuskegee.

Special recognition was given four state advisers who have attened every N. F. A. convention since its organization. They are A. Floyd, Alabama; S. B. Simmons, North Carolina; M. J. Clark, Louisiana, and L. A. Marshall, Florida.

Sixteen states were represented at the convention, which was attended by 450 delegates. The N. F. A. has a membership of 26,291 in 819 chapters.

Four members were elected to the degree of Superior Farmer. They are Claude H. Royster, North Carolina; Freddie R. Lewis, Virginia; Zack Brown, Alabama, and Kato Bissic, Louisiana.

GRAMBLING CHAPTER, Louisiana, was winner in the quartet contest. Second place went to Chadbourn Chapter, North Carolina.

Rosser E. Pulley, North Carolina, won first place in the N. F. A. quiz. Sandy Horton, Louisiana, was second, and Horace Jones, Georgia, third.

Levi Gaines, Texas, won first place in the talent event. Rogers Rideout, Maryland, and Eugene Witherspoon, Florida, were runners-up.

National N. F. A. officers are Rupert Seals, Lexington, Ky., president; Charles Jackson, Rodesdale, Md., first vice president; Robert Jackson, Millbrook, Ala., second vice president; Lloyd Malburn, Opelousas, La., third vice president; Thomas Battle, Chesterfield, S. C., secretary; Willard Dallas, Ada, Okla., treasurer and Frank Harris, Covington Tenn., reporter.

Among subjects discussed at the sessions were farm mechanics, rural electrification, farm and home improvement, and dairy farming.

Census Shows Black Property Ownership Gain; Tenancy Decline

Oklahoma City Okla.

WASHINGTON — (ANP) —Final figures on farms operated by Negroes in Oklahoma, as taken from the censues of 1940 and 1945, show that the value of farmlands owned by non-whites increased by $1,943,797, or 13.6 percent in 1945 over $14,323,222 in 1940. These figures were taken from a sensus report, entitled "Farms of Nonwhite Farm Operators, Number of Farms, Land in Farms, Cropland Harvested, and Value of Land and Buildings by Tenure: Censues of 1945 and 1940 —Final Figures: Oklahoma," issued here recently by the bureau of the census, department of commerce. Sat. 1-3-48

It revealed that of 11,204 nonwhite-operated farms in Oklahoma on Jan. 1, 1945, 6,543 were operated by owners, 18 my managers, and 4,643 by tenants. Contrasted to this was the 1940 report showing a total of 13,572 nonwhite-operated farms. This reflects a gain of 460 in the number of owner operated farms, a gain of four in managed farms and a decrease of 2,832 in tenant farmers. 1-3-48-Sat.

Each of the 77 counties in Oklahoma, with the exception of Alfalfa, Beaver, Ellis, Grant, Harper, Texas Woods and Woodard, had one or more nonwhite-operated farms in 1945. However, Choctaw, Creek, McCurtain, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Seminole and Eagoner counties accounted for 51.4 percent of the total number of nonwhite-operated farms. 45.8 percent of owner-operated farms, and 59.2 of tenant farms.

Oklahoma Farm Values Show Marked Increase

Pittsburgh Co. Courier Sat. 1-3-48

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Soil Conservation News-Notations

By JAMES A. KNOWLES

(Soil Conservation, Sparta, Ga.)

Negro farm cooperators of the Piedmont Soil Conservation District in Hancock County have put forth extra effort to plant winter grazing and winter legume crops during the few favorable days of the fall month.

Among the most energetic and noticeable farmers is James B. Smith, Jr., young ambitious veteran of World War II, who left city life to come back to the farm to seek a living. As a farmer he is both interested in good livestock and good soil, Smith purchased 1700 pounds of blue lupine seeds to plant on his sandy land to encourage yields of crops.

Young Smith said, "The kind of crops a farmer makes depends upon the way that former manages and cares for his soil." "I grow livestock, too," Smith emphasized, "but I make it my business to grow the necessary feeds I need."

With a new tractor and equipment Smith is planting more and more winter grazing crops for his live stock, winter legumes for soil-building, grain for feeds, and lespedezes and other summer legumes for hay and soil improvement.

Smith has entered the Soil Conservation Contest and in competing in Winter Legumes for Soil Building, Small Grains, Annual Lespedeza. Following Small Grain, and Winter Grazing.

SOUTHERN FARMING STEPPING OUT

That the South is going ahead in agriculture at a faster clip than the rest of the country is indicated by some figures from The Progressive Farmer. They show that in recent years the increase in per capita farm income in this section has been substantially above the increase for the nation as a whole. Perhaps even more significant is the fact that the number of Southern boys and girls enrolled in 4-H, Vocational Agriculture and Home Economics courses is considerably more than half the total for the entire nation.

Per capita farm income in the Southeastern States increased from $322 in 1940 to $801 in 1946, a gain of 149 per cent. In the same period for the nation as a whole the increase was from $575 to $1,200, or 109 per cent. Although the 1946 figure for this section was still below the national average, The Progressive Farmer asserts that we can be mightily "hope up" by the rate of progress Dixie made in 1940-46. More livestock, dairying and poultry were held up as means for making a still better showing.

That the South is laying the foundation for a better agriculture in years to come is emphasized by the way our boys and girls are studying basic rules for better farming and homemaking. The more than 1,000,000 Southern boys and girls in 4-H work represent 66 per cent of the national total, the nearly 500,000 studying agriculture and home economics in high schools, 52 per cent of the total for the entire country.

The South has 1,477,000 electrified farms, 39 per cent of all there are in America; last year the gain in number of electrified farms was 34 per cent in the South, while the rest of the country gained only five per cent.

More than any other part of the nation, the South today is in a stage of development and betterment on the farm front. With the shackles of the old one-crop system cast off, farmers are discovering in their ancestral acres new frontiers, possibilities hitherto neglected.

If You Think Of The South As Tobacco Road, Think Again

ATLANTA, Dec. 11—(AP)—If you still think of the South as a land of sharecroppers, you'd better have another look.

Over the past 15 years, says Dr. George Mitchell, director of the Southern Regional Council, 75 per cent of the Southern farmers have become landowners.

What's more, Dr. Mitchell continued in the "New South," the number of sharecroppers in 13 states declined 54.1 per cent among whites and 31.2 per cent among Negroes.

Farm tenancy figures, which include sharecroppers, showed a 37.5 per cent decrease among white farmers and 32 per cent among Negroes, Dr. Mitchell said.

Tobacco Road, in brief, is beginning to lose some of that beat-up, raggedy look which for 83 years has been the South's badge of poverty.

In the course of these 15 years, though, Dr. Mitchell wrote in the Council's publication, the number of Negro farmers declined 24.6 per cent while the total number of white farmers dropped only 5.4 per cent.

After publishing a long array of figures showing the loss by states of sharecroppers and tenants, Dr. Mitchell wrote:

"I draw the conclusion that in the recent period of agriculture prosperity, the South has made a satisfying—not to say remarkable—increase in the number of farm owners."

"The increase has been quite unevenly distributed by race. . . .

"My travels about the South convince me that almost every factor pertaining to government and culture is on a better level in areas in which a high percentage of farms are worked by owners or by tenants whose landlords own only one, two or three farms.

"As a matter of theory," Dr. Mitchell continued, "it should prove to be true that race relations are better in those rural areas in which Negro and white farmers have holdings and tenure that are similar in size and kind."

Jim Crow Ruins Fla. Spring Crops

Daily World

Atlanta, Ga. Wed

ORLANDO, Fla.—(ANP)—Jim crow facilities, unsanitary living conditions, and Simon Legree bulldozing on farms in Florida's million dollar spring vegetables section, is primarily responsible for the predicted drastic reduction in crop produce. 3-10-48

Lamonte Graw, manager of the Florida Growers association declared last week that unless there can be migrated to this section a large number of Bahamian laborers to offset the predicted ruin, the plight of the growers will be chaotic. Daily World

Mr. Graw stated that there had been a noticeable increase in the number of farm workers available in certain areas but that many of the migrant laborers had sought construction jobs elsewhere because of better pay. 3-16-48

Bahamian Laborers

Statistics disclose that there are less than 1,600 Bahamian laborers available for the 1948 spring crops as compared with 7,000 who worked in the state in 1945-46, when Florida had the last good spring crop. Atlanta, Ga.

This writer during the past year interviewed many hundreds of migrant laborers from both the Bahamas and the British West Indies. These workers narrated unbelievable and harassing events experienced by them while in the employ of agricultural slavecrats.

Passing through Miami 400 and 500 at a time traveling by rail, many migrant workers like European refugees fleeing the onrush of the German armies during the late World War brought with them clothing and musical instruments but knew not where they were being taken. 3-16-48

At the Florida East Coast station, they were herded together like stock in a cattle car and were closely watched by white overseers. One worker told how a group of more than 300 Jamacians had fled a farm because one of their number had been clubbed. 3-10-48

Importing Farm Laborers
Communist 1-23-48-Fri. 1c

LATEST REPORTS from California on the Di Giorgio Farms Corporation strike point to an intensification of the struggle. Four of the strikers have now been charged with cutting down fruit trees, which is a misdemeanor in the Golden Bear State. Further than that, bail has been set as fantastically high as $15,000 apiece, a figure which constitutes a real hardship if not an outright impossibility for the National Farm Labor Union, the principal adversary of the Associated Farmers of California in this matter. The dozen or more families, members of the Union, who have been occupying about half of the housing accommodations for workers on the Di Giorgio property, have just been evicted by the local sheriff. It is a rugged battle. 1c Communist

Many of the workers involved in the present strike to obtain decent wages, hours and working conditions are Mexicans imported into California under a contract drawn up jointly by the Mexican and United States governments. The texts of such contracts are virtually impossible to obtain, but the report is that new contracts for importing labor both from Mexico and from the West Indies have already been drawn up by the respective governments. It is reported that the terms of the new agreement with Mexico are even poorer than they were last year, and that the contracts for Jamaica, Barbados and the Bahamas are somewhat better in several respects. But when the minimum-wage figure of 37½ cents an hour in these contracts is compared with other American wage scales, the point of the process becomes obvious. 1-23-48 New York, N.Y.

Does the United States need to import foreign workers to prepare and harvest her huge crops? That is certainly the impression found by traveling through various sections of this country. It is so easy to cite temporary and semi-permanent demands for agricultural workers which are simply going begging. But what is being offered in such employment—a living wage, decent housing, an adequate degree of permanence or security? Some men conversant with the agricultural labor market maintain that if a decent minimum of these things went with employment on our farms, there would be no need to import depressed and underpaid labor from abroad. While if the United States were to admit her due share of displaced persons in conjunction with the Marshall Plan, serious shortages of American farm workers would be non-existent. 1-23-48-Fri.

Under ideal conditions the family-type farm would be predominant in American agriculture. Deprived of that, have we not the right to expect that employees of our big agricultural corporations enjoy the protections of the worker in our urban plants? That is why what is being fought out at Di Giorgio's is of such key importance.

Mexican Farmers Importation Hit

Union Head Says Act Violates Law, Treaties

WASHINGTON (ANP)—L. L. Mitchell, president of the National Farm Labor Union, AFL, charged at a recent meeting of a special farm labor committee of the U. S. Employment Service that an invasion of thousands of Mexican workers across the Texas border last October was inspired by agricultural employers in collusion with Federal authorities.

He stated this occurrence in violation of our immigration laws and international agreements with Mexico, has had a serious effect on relations with Latin American countries.

Forced Labor Setup

He related, also, that some agricultural employers want a permanent system of forced labor on the nation's farms, pointing out that foreign workers brought into the country illegally or under contract constitute a controlled labor supply that is near peonage.

Such workers are not free to change jobs for better wages or working conditions, the labor leader pointed out.

Could Use Nationals

The AFL Farm Labor Union leader insisted that the U. S. Employment service concern itself only with recruitment and placement of American farm workers, and suggested that thousands of Porto Ricans who are American citizens be recruited before any foreign workers are brought in.

The U. S. Employment Service's farm labor committee is composed of approximately 30 [illegible] tives of agriculture pro[illegible] processors from all State[illegible]

Jamaicans In U. S. For Farm Work

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.—The first consignment of Jamaican agricultural workers to return to the United States for the current vegetable harvesting season arrived here last week. There were 90 men in the of 2,420 has been allowed for this year.

FORMER WAR AIDES

The men will work for the United States Sugar company but are being handled under private arrangements. During the war they were recruited as war emergency workers and the government paid for their transportation, insurance and afforded various other protective measures.

When the war ended, these measures were rescinded but planters in the south and east dug up an old law which permitted the men to get past the immigration bar.

1c 1948 Foreign Labor (Mexicans)

Press Service NAACP 1-16-48-Fw. NAACP QUERIES STATE DEPT. ON IMPORTED LABOR New York, N.Y. 1c

Washington, D.C.,--An explanation of why the State Department is making plans to permit the importation of foreign workers in agriculture was requested of the Labor Department by the NAACP this week.

The association's labor secretary, Clarence Mitchell, indicated that information from labor organizations revealed that the State Department is currently negotiating with the Mexican government to permit the use of workers from Mexico in several areas of the West and Southwest. 1-16-48-Fw.

In a letter to William G. McLean of the Division of Mexican Affairs, Mr. Mitchell pointed out that labor organizations representing workers in agriculture have informed the NAACP that there is no labor shortage which could not be relieved by "the provision of proper housing and decent wages for individuals who are natives of this country." Press Service NAACP New York, N.Y.

His letter also stated that agricultural workers are making a desperate struggle to better their conditions of employment and increase their wages. "Our organization supports their efforts," Mr. Mitchell said, "and believes that every appropriate instrument of government should be used to assure farm workers of a living wage and employment conditions equal to those enjoyed by industrial wage earners."

MEXICO BLACKLISTS 2 SOUTHERN STATES

The Times

Refuses to Let Farm Workers Go to Mississippi, Arkansas Because of Alleged Bias

1c

WASHINGTON, May 20 (AP)—Mexico has "blacklisted" Arkansas and Mississippi, refusing to let Mexicans go there as temporary farm workers because of what it termed racial discrimination practices. New York, N.Y.

Officials of the United States employment service's farm placement division, however, denied today that the Washington Government had encouraged the blacklist. The USES said that it had "made representations" to Mexico asking an explanation, but had not received a reply.

Gov. Ben Laney of Arkansas said earlier in the day that the Federal employment service had denied Arkansas and Mississippi the use of migratory Mexican laborers because of the states' stand against President Truman's civil rights program.

"This is just the first of their squeeze plays," Mr. Laney asserted at Little Rock. He is chairman of the States Rights Democrats organization, which is opposing Mr. Truman's nomination for the Presidency. Fri. 5-21-48

A USES spokesman said here that the agency had started attempts to get the two states workers from other sources outside this country, probably the British West Indies. Six Arkansas employers have applied for 1,035 Mexican workers and thre Mississippi employers have asked for 260.

The spokesman said that the first indication that any state was going to be blacklisted came Monday at Tampico, Mexico, when a Mexican official told two Arkansas employer representatives there would be no migrations to Arkansas or Mississippi because of race discrimination in those states.

The USES official said that a form contract covering wage, housing and transportation regulations for the workers had been worked out by the agency, the State Department and the Mexican Government. He added that in this form contract employers "guarantee that no race discrimination will be carried out against the imported workers." The Times

Each American employer seeking Mexican farm help must clear his request through the USES and the Immigration Service, but he personally contracts for the labor with the Mexican Government. The USES stated that no Arkansas or Mississippi applications for Mexican workers had been held up by this Government. 5-21-48

USES officials said that they did not know what Mexico's attitude would be to requests from other Southern States, since they had not submitted applications.

Mexican Labor Is Rounded Up By U.S. Patrol

Cotton Trade Journal

Hundreds Of Pickers, Overstaying Permits, Are Being Deported

Friday 12-31-48

Memphis Tenn.

Hundreds of Mexican cotton pickers are in the process of being deported to their homeland after overstaying their permits, E. A. Wohl, head of the United States Immigration Border Patrol of New Orleans, said this week.

Mr. Wohl, with his patrol, is operating temporarily out of Memphis to round up "floaters" who are trying to stay in the United States in direct violation of the contract originally bringing them here to supplement the labor supply for the cotton picking season. The contract was between the planters and the Mexican Government.

The patrol, with temporary offices on the fifth floor of the county jail, set up lookout points at the various highway intersections coming in and going out of the city as well as all railroad stations.

Mexicans Jailed

All Mexicans, regardless of direction they were heading, were picked up, questioned and then jailed awaiting shipment back to Mexico. This was also done at Blytheville and Little Rock.

Of the hundreds picked up, nearly 100 were found to have originally crossed the border to pick cotton in this area without benefit of contract of any discription. They planned becoming migrant workers moving with the seasons, principally North, after cotton picking was over. Friday 12-31-48

Mr. Wohl has indicated that the patrol will continue working this area and the Delta to round up the remainder of the workers. Unstinting cooperation by local law enforcing and transportation authorities made possible the apprehension of these Mexican cotton pickers, Mr. Wohl said.

PUERTO RICO SETS CURBS ON MIGRANTS

Training Courses for Workers Heading for States Started —Job Racketeering Hit

By LEE E. COOPER
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, March 25—Worried as much as officials in the states over reports of a record influx of untrained and jobless Puerto Ricans into New York, the insular Government has started cracking down on job racketeering and exploitation of the migrant workers.

It has started a program designed to assure jobs and basic training for the workers before they leave home and to halt the operations of shady employment and travel agencies trading on the desire of many natives to seek their fortune on the mainland. Labor officials here are aware that Puerto Rico has received a black eye because many of the migrants heretofore have been "floaters" looking for relief.

Their program is intended to counteract the unfavorable publicity and to assure a movement of a more representative class. They insist that they are not promoting the movement, but are merely acting to guide it and regulate it for the best interests of both the states and the island.

Bureau of Training Created

The Department of Labor, headed by Fernando Sierra Berdecia, in accordance with legislation adopted in recognition of this problem, has created a bureau of employment and migration to train the workers and guide them to proper agencies in New York and other American cities.

The bureau is under the direction of Mrs. Pagan Colon. It has set up training classes for maids and other household workers at high schools in Caguas, San German and Guayama. Nearly 100 girls are enrolled for the first eleven-week course of intensive training in domestic science.

It is planning to open similar classes throughout the island, and has asked the Puerto Rican Legislature to appropriate $100,000 to further this work. Applicants are carefully screened, according to Mrs. Colon. They must have some knowledge of the English language, and are taught to cook, sew, serve and use various household mechanical equipment.

An effort is being made to correct the deficiences noted in the first group of twenty-one girls sent to Scarsdale, N. Y., homes under official sponsorship. Complaints were received from employers that the girls were inadequately trained and could not speak English. Apprenticeship training is being given to the girls without charge.

Hundreds Study Farming

Nearly 1,300 boys and 200 girls now are studying farm work and animal husbandry at the Puerto Rico College of Agriculture. Many of them expect to go to farms in the United States. Major units in the sprawling group of buildings which will make up the plant of the new Puerto Rico Industrial College will be completed within a few weeks. Training in fifty-five trades will be offered. Eventually the college will have machinery and equipment costing about $2,000,000. The project, to be operated as an adjunct of the University of Puerto Rico at San Juan, will provide skilled men not only for the continent but also for industrial expansion on the island.

A New York couple, both graduates of Cornell's hotel school, have been engaged by the Government to train men and women for hotel service.

One Hundred Thousand More Hired Farm Workers Now Employed in South Than Year Ago

Although farm employment declined seasonally on November 1, about 100,000 more hired workers were employed in the South on that date than were at work a year ago, reports the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The BAE report shows that 10,938 persons were employed on farms throughout the country on November 1. This number included both family workers and hired hands. Of this total, 5,810,000, or more than half, were working on farms in the South. Family workers accounted for 4,532,000 of these and hired workers, 1,278,000. This represented a decrease of over half a million in the number of family workers, but an increase of about 100,000 in the number of hired hands. However, from the long-time point of view, there was also a decline in the number of hired workers for this date as compared with the same date during the period 1935-39. The long-time decline in hired hands amounted to 95,000.

Workers in the South were busy harvesting sweetpotatoes, corn, peanuts, tobacco, and sorghums. In some areas they were still picking cotton, and in others they were seeding fall grain.

Among the farm workers were about 6,500 West Indians. They were working principally in Connecticut and Florida. A breakdown of these workers shows that 3,449 of them were Jamaicans, 2,428 were Bahamians, and 343, Barbarians.

Finds Negro Farm Families Getting Below Par Diets

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga. Wed. 1-21-48

WASHINGTON—(NNPA)—Pointing out that rising prices may affect purchasing power as much as falling incomes do, Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson in his annual report made public last Monday disclosed that some colored farm families are getting diets less than two-thirds of the amounts recommended by the National Research Council.

"In 1945 a nation-wide survey indicated that 20 per cent of the families studied had an annual income of less than $1,000," he stated, adding: Daily World

"In one southern county studied in 1945 about one-third of the white and about half the Negro farm families had money incomes of less than $500. Atlanta, Ga.

"In another state one-fourth of the white families had money incomes of less than $500; almost three-fifths had money incomes of less than $1,000. Wed. 1-21-48

"One-third of the white farm families and two-thirds of the Negro families in the first mentioned county had diets that provided less than two-thirds of the allowances recommended by the National Research Council for one or more nutrients."

White Farmers Beat Truck Driver Taking Negroes To Job

1c Wages Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

LILBOURN, Mo. — (ANP) — Because John Phillips, truck driver of Portageville, Mo., defied warnings of local white farmers to stop taking Negro cotton field workers from here to farms outside the area where higher wages are being paid, he was set upon last week by 12 white farmers and beaten severely. Of the 12 farmers, only four were arrested—one of whom pleaded guilty and was fined $16.85. Tues.

Phillips came into town in his truck Monday, May 17, in search of cotton "choppers" to be employed on the farm of Walter Richardson, white of Marston, a few miles south of here. He was turned back and warned not to return. Richardson came back with Phillips and obtained permission from local farmers to get some cotton hands to work on his farm. However, Phillips was unable to enlist any hands for the job. He was said to have received 50 cents a worker for those he took to the various farms.

The next day, he returned to town with his wife, but was pulled out of his truck and beaten before he could canvas the community again. 5-25-48

City Marshal Ruven Liley, who witnessed the beating, placed four of the men under arrest. Sam Guy, one of those arrested, pleaded guilty of the assault and paid a $16.85 fine. The others, Charles Simpson, James Smith and Kinsy Thompson, are being held for trial before Justice of the Peace J. K. Driver.

Liley insists that Phillips was not beaten badly, being subjected to a few blows of the fist and several kicks. Richardson, however, said that Phillips narrowly escaped with his life after a severe beating that covered his head with blood. His wife was not molested. Tues.

Richardson also said he intended to take Phillips to the county seat at New Madrid and file charges against the four arrested. He charged the activity as being an attempt to restrict labor to Lilboun area by "highhanded proceedings" that had no place in a free country. He said that Phillips was seeking men to work on the farm of an Alvin Harris not himself. 5-25-48